Mayo Clinic Minute

Women and Alzheimer's disease

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	More women have Alzheimer's disease than men. Researchers want to find out why.
Kejal Kantarci, M.D. Neuroradiology Mayo Clinic	"We are learning that women may have certain risk factors that are specific to them."
Vivien Williams	Dr. Kejal Kantarci says new research focuses on whether reproductive history or exposure to hormone therapy influence a woman's risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.
Kejal Kantarci, M.D.	"The study I'm enrolled in involves hormone therapy during menopausal transition and how that affects the brain later in life."
Vivien Williams	Dr. Kantarci and her team look for markers of Alzheimer's disease in brain scans. They also look for changes in brain structure. Thus far, studies show that normal pregnancies and exposure to hormone replacement therapy do not increase cognitive decline.
Kejal Kantarci, M.D.	"Certain hormonal risk factors exist, and reproductive history is an important consideration for women evaluating their Alzheimer's risk."
Vivien Williams	She says more studies are needed to learn more about risks specific to women.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.