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Science in the News- "Alzheimer's drug trial offers new hope, but also uncertainty"

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Biochemistry I

Science in the News- "Alzheimer's drug trial offers new hope, but also uncertainty"

There is new experimental Alzheimer's drug that has been found to slow or stop Alzheimer's disease. The drug is called BAN2401. This drug slowed down the memory loss and other cognitive abilities that Alzheimer's patient has. Also, this drug cleared the amyloid protein plaques in the brain. This drug was tested on 856 patients with mild Alzheimer's disease. In the article it said that out of 856 patients, 161 patients received the highest dose of the drug every two weeks for 18 months. Those patients who received the highest dose have a slower rate of decrease in memory loss and other cognitive abilities than the 245 patients who received a placebo. Receiving the highest dose of the drug removed much of the Alzheimer's associated plaque in the brain. This trial was a failure overall because the drug did not meet the statistical goal that they set by the end of the year. Using BAN2401 in earlier stage of Alzheimer before the patient hits dementia, there will be more success in treating the Alzheimer's disease.

I picked this article because it seemed so interesting that there is a new drug to treat the Alzheimer's disease. The title caught my eyes *Alzheimer's drug trial offers new hope, but also uncertainty*. They proposed that drug BAN2401 would slow down the mental decrease in Alzheimer's diseases patients. They said that the drug slowed down the mental decline as much as 30% in Alzheimer's diseases patients. So, this article relates to what we learn in class because we learned about the protein folding diseases and one of them was Alzheimer's diseases. Beta amyloid peptide is the protein that affects the Alzheimer's disease. So, the plaques from the

neural tissues cause the Alzheimer's disease. But this drug help removes the plaques that are building up in the brain.

Reference

Alzheimer's drug trial offers new hope, but also uncertainty

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