

# Racial disparities seen in presentation of frontotemporal dementia

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Racial disparities can be seen in dementia severity, functional

impairment, and neuropsychiatric symptoms among patients with frontotemporal dementia (FTD), according to a study published online Sept. 11 in *JAMA Neurology*.

Hannah A. Jin, from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and colleagues examined [racial disparities](#) in dementia severity, functional impairment, and neuropsychiatric symptoms in 2,478 individuals with a diagnosis of FTD (2.4 percent Asian, 2.5 percent Black, and 95.1 percent White) in an exploratory cross-sectional study of National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) data.

The researchers found that Black individuals had a higher degree of dementia severity on the Clinical Dementia Rating Dementia Staging Instrument plus NACC Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration Behavior & Language Domains (FTLD-CDR) and FTLD-CDR sum of boxes as well as greater functional impairment.

Between Asian and White individuals, there were no differences noted on FTLD-CDR or the Functional Assessment Scale. A significantly higher frequency of delusions, agitation, and depression was exhibited by Black individuals. Compared with White individuals, Asian individuals exhibited a significantly higher frequency of apathy, nighttime behaviors, and appetite/eating.

"We observed that racial differences in [neuropsychiatric symptoms](#) from FTD differ from the observed pattern in the healthy controls suggesting that the neuropsychiatric symptom profile observed in Asian and Black individuals is specific to FTD," the authors write.

**More information:** Hannah A. Jin et al, Racial Differences in Clinical Presentation in Individuals Diagnosed With Frontotemporal Dementia, *JAMA Neurology* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamaneurol.2023.3093](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaneurol.2023.3093)

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