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Early clinical markers

Clinical diagnosis of frontotemporal dementia relies on consensus criteria that were published over 10 years ago. In the past decade, the field has made tremendous progress in the understanding of the clinical presentations and progression of the frontotemporal dementia subtypes, as well as their relations to pathophysiology and genetics. During that time, the evidence accumulated has also identified a number of clinical challenges in the field, including the phenotypic variability within subtypes, as well as overlap in clinical features across syndromes. In addition, co-occurring motor and psychiatric features in many patients further complicate the diagnostic and management process.

This presentation will focus on clinical aspects not included in the consensus diagnostic criteria for frontotemporal dementias, but that have been shown to increase diagnostic sensitivity and specificity, including social cognition, neurophysiological, metabolic, and neuroimaging markers. Indeed, early and accurate case ascertainment remains the pathway to relevant interventions and management strategies, especially as development of disease modifying treatments accelerate but remain some years away.

