

Prions - A silent epidemic
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Imagine Prions like a virus but one that kills the brain, one that cannot be fought by any drugs, one that is impossible to treat and almost impossible to isolate. Imagine a disease that is like gangrene of the brain. One that slowly rots away a person's mind, killing one neuron at a time. Prions are the only disease known to man that can do this, the only disease known to man that can kill a person's mind.

And there is no cure. No treatment. No vaccine. The main symptom of prion disease is dementia. And the main symptom of its progression is death. They embody a death sentence for the human mind. Prions are a disease that will take the mind from a person and leave the body alive, a disease that is so slow, so subtle, that you will not notice it for years. But eventually, a person will notice something is wrong. A person will start to forget things. They will misplace things. They will start to lose their grip on reality. And then they will disappear completely. Now, the interesting thing is that, as far as we can tell, Prions are only transmitted by eating infected meat or touching infected tissue. There is no complete evidence that it can be transmitted from person to person as of now. And it appears to be a slow disease. There could be ¹hundreds of thousands of people living with a Prion infection in the United States today. And we would not know, because they still live, but they have been exposed. They have been infected. And they continue to go about their lives. They continue to go to work. They continue to go to church. They continue to be with their families. They continue to be friends. They continue to live life, but with a death sentence growing in their brain. It robs the person of their mind, and they slowly forget they have it. They slowly forget they are sick. And they slowly forget they are alive. *There is virtually no way to detect a Prion infection until the disease is well advanced, in many cases, postmortem.* And, even then, the only test is to examine the brain tissue. And, because prion disease is so slow, most people die, long after initial exposure, with no idea what caused the initial infection. The Prion disease that is most widespread in the US today is Chronic Wasting Disease. It is the most widespread prion disease in the US because it is not just a disease of deer. It is a disease of all cervids. It is a disease of all deer, elk, and moose in North America. And it has been in North America for over two hundred years. Chronic Wasting Disease is not a disease that can be tested for. There is no statistics, no DNA, no Antigen test, nothing for it. It is spreading through deer and elk herds in the United States, slowly, but steady. Chronic Wasting Disease is an amplification of the same disease that causes mad cow disease. It is a prion disease. It is the only disease known to man that can kill the human mind. And it is only transmitted through the eating of contaminated meat. It is the deadliest, the most silent, the most widespread, and the most ignored disease ever to be transmitted to man. It is a silent epidemic. A silent epidemic that is spreading. And that scares me.

¹Hypothetically, luckily.