

THE STAGES OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



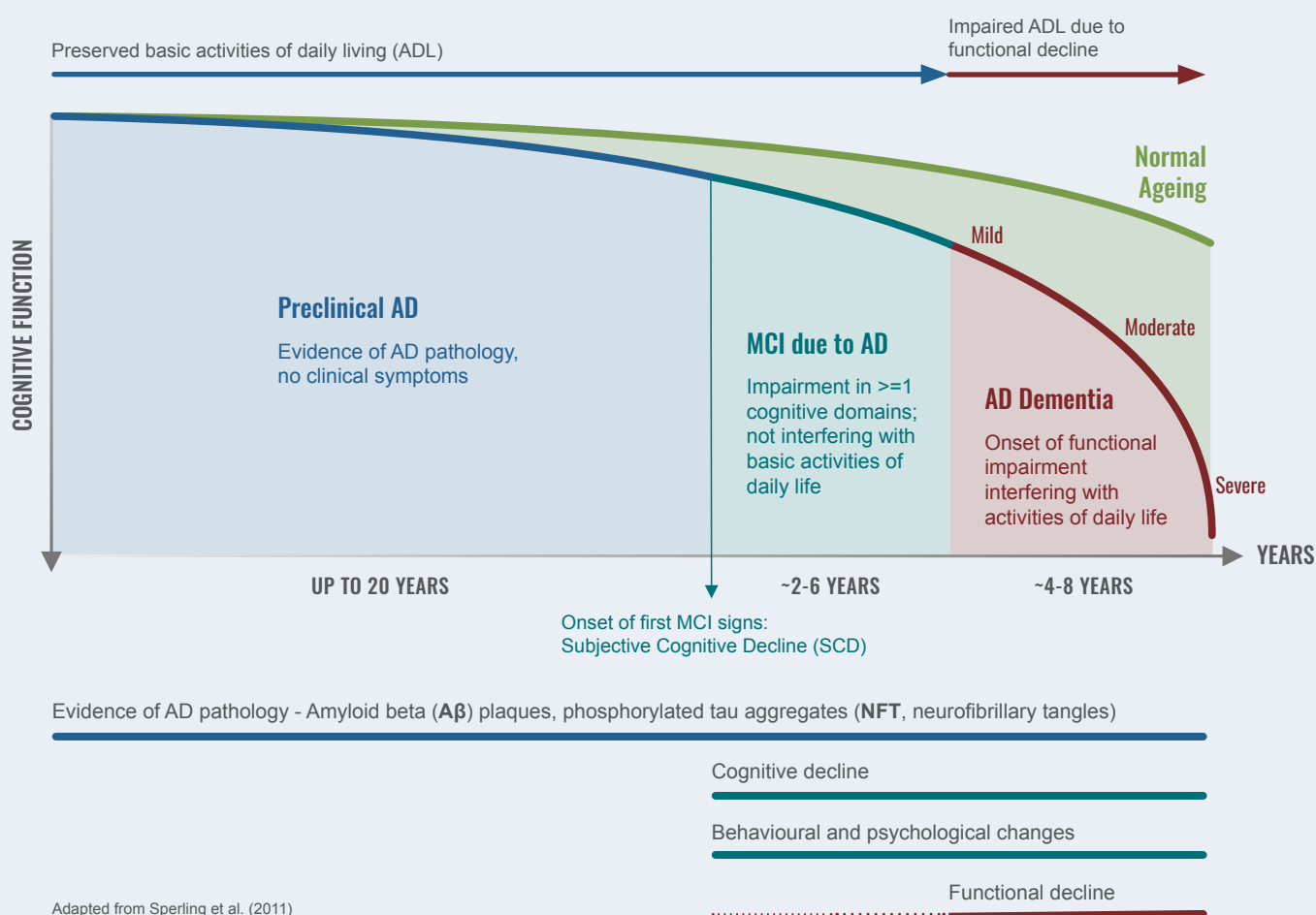
Alzheimer's disease (AD) progresses slowly through several disease stages leading to irreversible injury in the brain.¹

The start of the disease is asymptomatic and can last up to 20 years. This initial stage of the disease is called **preclinical AD**. Early symptoms usually become apparent to individuals affected by the disease, their loved ones, and their doctors, in the stage of the disease called **mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to AD**. The rate of disease progression differs from person to person but ultimately the disease evolves to **AD dementia stages** which can vary from mild to severe.¹

❶ MCI due to Alzheimer's Disease

Individuals with MCI due to AD have subtle problems in one or more cognitive domains plus biomarker evidence of underlying AD pathology. These cognitive problems do not yet interfere with individuals' ability to carry out basic activities of daily living (ADLs).⁵

The AD Continuum: The Time Frame for Early AD Detection and Diagnosis is Limited³⁻⁷



Detection of MCI is based on subjective and objective evidence of cognitive decline. Early recognition of the signs of MCI together with biomarker confirmation provides an opportunity to diagnose Alzheimer's early when patients are still mostly functionally independent and before progression to AD dementia.^{2,5}

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