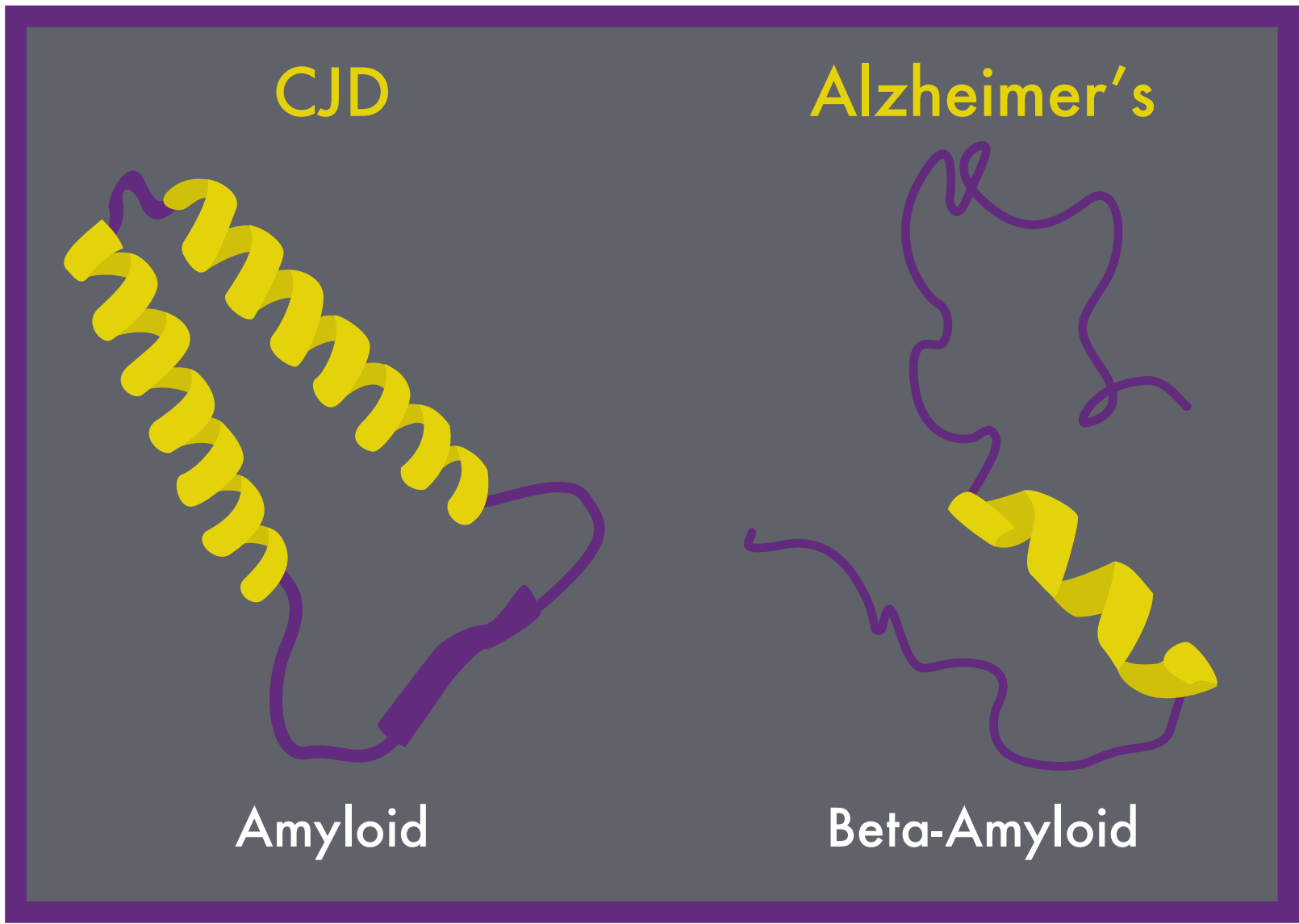
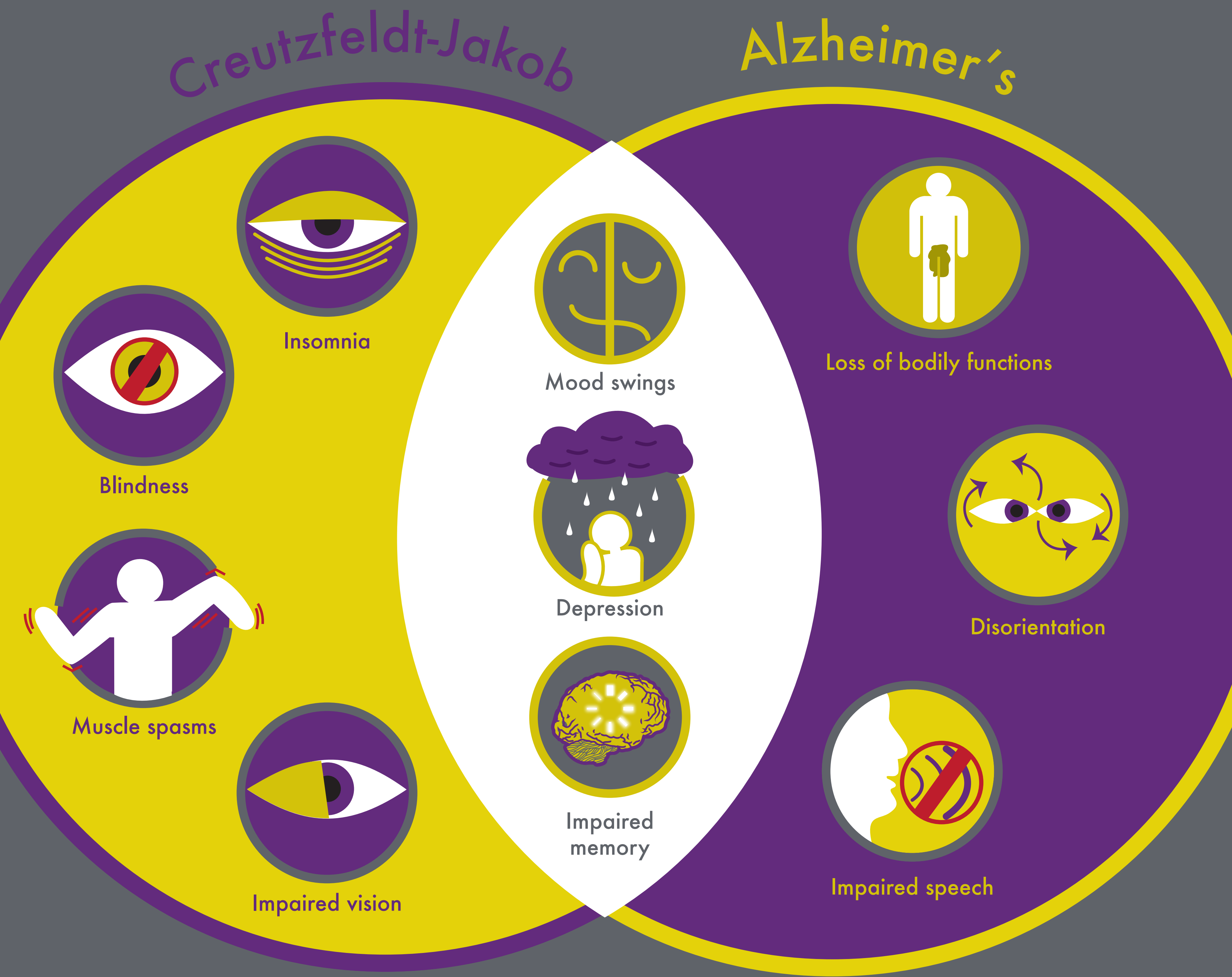


# CJD & Alzheimer's

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is a rare and debilitating mental illness with many dementia-like symptoms. However, it is not the only dementia causing condition in the world today. Alzheimer's is a much more widespread brain disease that shares many similarities with CJD. While Creutzfeldt-Jakob affects just 300 people in the United States each year, an estimated 5.3 million people of various ages suffer from Alzheimer's. Although, because not much is understood about either disease and neither disease is truly diagnosable until autopsy, there have been overlaps and misdiagnoses. Presented below is an illustration of which symptoms are typically unique to each disease, and a few of the symptoms they share. The two conditions share many of other qualities as well.



While Alzheimer's is much more widespread and known around the world, it shares many of its qualities with the more rare, more deadly, and more mysterious Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Both of the diseases cause the brain to literally shrink in size due to an abnormal protein in the brain. In cases of CJD, studies have found that the amyloid protein was folding incorrectly and clumping up together, causing a corrosive plaque to form in the brain and kill healthy brain cells. Other cells in the brain then digest these dead cells and the brain shrinks. Many studies have found Alzheimer's to be caused by beta-amyloids clumping together and interrupting the flow of vital nutrients to the brain, causing neurons to starve and wither away. Pictured left are representations of the different prions which cause each disease.

Although the two diseases are very similar in the way they affect the body, our understanding of Creutzfeldt-Jakob falters in the aspect of treatment. While scientists and doctors have developed ways for Alzheimer's patients to stave off the dementia-like symptoms with mental exercises and some drugs. However, CJD remains incurable as well as untreatable. This is why experts on brain disease and pharmaceuticals in the United States and all around the world have been working together to study this mysterious disease, and the CJD Foundation continues to support these efforts in the search for a cure.

## Treatment Options



## Help Us Find a Cure

Alzheimer's disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease are two of the most severe degenerative brain diseases in the world today, and although we can identify their causes and pick out their similarities, more funding for research is needed. Millions of Americans suffer from Alzheimer's, and CJD remains invariably fatal. But with your help, these facts might change in the future. With your help, we can attempt to end the heartbreak.