

A microscopic image of brain tissue, showing various cells and structures in shades of blue. A white rounded rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing text.

Microglia are immune cells in the brain and spinal cord that perform many key functions, including supporting brain development, maintenance of the neural network, protection against infections, and repairing injuries. Microglia monitor the brain for threats like infections, toxins, or damaged cells and respond by clearing out harmful substances and enhancing repairs. Normally microglial cells help prevent buildup of amyloid beta protein. But, in the presence of excess amyloid and cell death in Alzheimer's patients, microglial cells cause neuroinflammation leading to excessive cell death.