

DNA damage occurs as part of normal brain activity

The following is an excerpt.

Scientists have long known that DNA damage occurs in every cell, accumulating as we age. But a particular type of DNA damage, known as a double-strand break, or DSB, has long been considered a major force behind age-related illnesses such as Alzheimer's. Today [24 March 2013], researchers in the laboratory of Gladstone Senior Investigator Lennart Mucke, MD, report in *Nature Neuroscience* that DSBs in neuronal cells in the brain can also be part of normal brain functions such as learning — as long as the DSBs are tightly controlled and repaired in good time. Further, the accumulation of the amyloid-beta protein in the brain — widely thought to be a major cause of Alzheimer's disease — increases the number of neurons with DSBs and delays their repair.

View the original article here: [DNA Damage Occurs as Part of Normal Brain Activity, Scientists Discover](#)