

## Gene therapy could offer ‘one-time genetic tune-up’ for Alzheimer’s patients

No one knows for certain what causes Alzheimer’s disease. But one fact about the condition has gained nearly irrefutable status. Depending on what versions of a gene called APOE you inherit, your risk of the brain disorder can be half the average—or more than 12 times as high.

Sometimes called “[the forgetting gene](#),” APOE comes in three common versions, called 2, 3, and 4. Type 2 lowers a person’s risk, 3 is average, and 4 increases the chance dramatically.

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There’s no cure, and you can’t change your genes, either.

Well, today you can’t. But doctors in New York City say that beginning in May [2019], they will start testing a novel gene therapy in which people with the unluckiest APOE genes will be given a huge dose to their brain of the low-risk version.

If that slows the brain-wasting illness in people who already have Alzheimer’s, it could eventually lead to a way to prevent the disease.

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Eventually, the hope is, middle-aged people with risky genes might undergo one-time genetic tune-ups. Even a small reduction in the pace at which brain changes occur could make a difference over time.

**Read full, original post:** [Doctors plan to test a gene therapy that could prevent Alzheimer’s disease](#)