

Prions

Prions are sub viral proteinaceous infectious particles devoid of nucleic acid. They are rod shaped and composed of prion protein. Prions propagate by transmitting a misfolded protein state. Prions are resistant to denaturation by chemical and physical agents. Prions cause neurodegenerative disease by aggregating extracellularly within the central nervous system and create holes in the tissue. All known prion diseases are collectively called transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

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