

## **Evidence That nvCJD and BSE Are Caused by the Same TSE Strain**

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Previous transmissions of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from cattle to mice have given a characteristic pattern of incubation periods and neuropathology in the mice that acts as a "signature" for the BSE strain of agent. The BSE "signature" has been retained after accidental or experimental passage of BSE through six other animal species. Recently, transmissions to mice of nvCJD from three patients have also given the BSE "signature," strongly suggesting that nvCJD is caused by the BSE strain. On the other hand, the transmission characteristics of typical sporadic CJD from six patients, including two dairy farmers who had had BSE in their herds, have differed from those of BSE. These results suggest that sporadic CJD, even in the two dairy farmers, was unrelated to BSE.