

# Brain Medicine

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### Cover Art

This cover image depicts a human brain with colorful microplastic particles scattered across its surface, juxtaposed with a white plastic spoon as a visual representation of the alarming findings initially reported by Nihart et al. (*Nature Medicine*, 2025) and further analyzed by Fabiano, Luu, and Puder in this issue (pages 29–30). Research has revealed that the human brain contains approximately “a spoon’s worth” of microplastics and nanoplastics, with particularly high concentrations (3–5 times greater) in individuals with dementia. The multicolored particles shown on the brain surface represent the variety of plastic types detected, with polyethylene being predominant. The image illustrates the concerning 50% increase in microplastic concentration observed between 2016 and 2024, highlighting the rapid infiltration of these synthetic materials into our most protected organ.

Image credit: Genomic Press.

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