



New Advances in Alzheimer's Treatments

January 2026

 **ALZHEIMER'S[®]
ASSOCIATION**

Learning Objectives



List the
FDA-approved
treatments for
Alzheimer's



Explain the impact of
anti-amyloid treatments
on the brain, benefits
and side effects



Explain the
pathways to
access treatment



Describe the
resources available
through the
Alzheimer's
Association®



**Over
7 MILLION**

Americans are living with Alzheimer's



**OVER
11 MILLION**

Americans provide unpaid care for people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias

What is Dementia?

- Dementia is a collection of symptoms related to cognitive decline
- This can include
 - Cognitive symptoms
 - Behavioral symptoms
 - Psychological symptoms
- **Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia**
- Not everyone with cognitive decline has dementia. Some causes of cognitive decline are reversible.

TYPES OF DEMENTIA

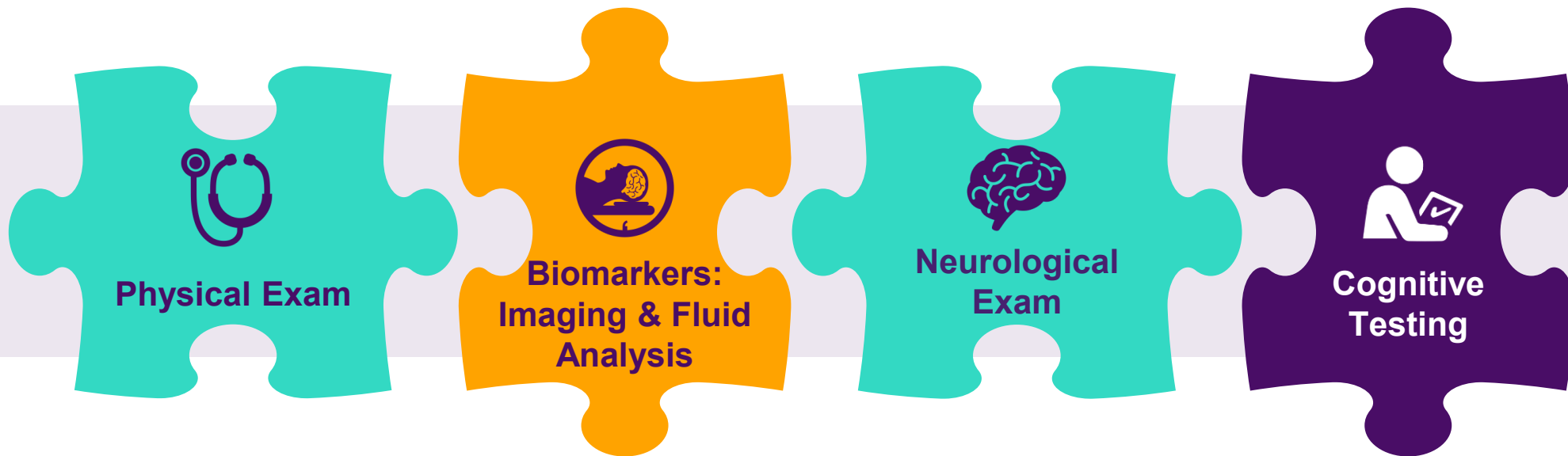
Dementia is an umbrella term for loss of memory and other thinking abilities severe enough to interfere with daily life.

- Alzheimer's
- Vascular
- Lewy body
- Frontotemporal
- Other, including Huntington's
- * **Mixed dementia:** Dementia from more than one cause

How is Alzheimer's Currently Diagnosed?

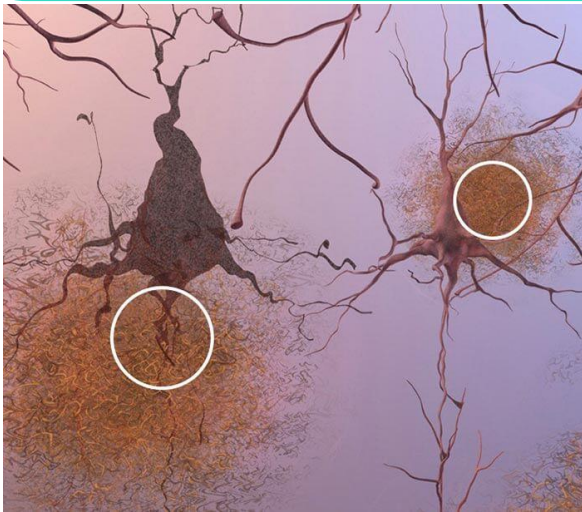
There is no single test that can determine if a person is living with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia.

Doctors use a combination of diagnostic tools combined with medical history to make an accurate diagnosis.



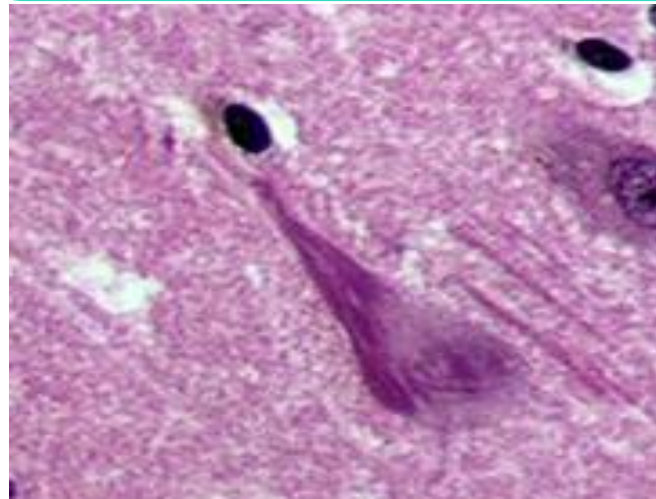
The Hallmarks of Alzheimer's

1 Plaques



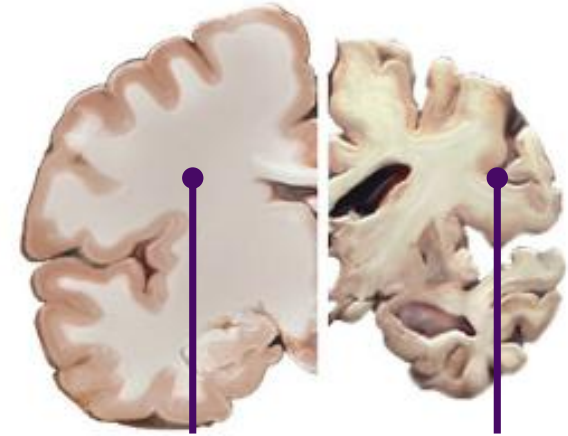
Made up of **beta amyloid**, plaques are outside brain cells

2 Tangles



Made up of **tau**, these bodies are called **neurofibrillary tangles**

3 Brain Cell Death



Healthy
brain

Advanced
Alzheimer's











FDA-Approved Therapies for Alzheimer's

Treat Symptoms:
Cognition and Function

Treat Symptoms:
Mood or Behavior

Slow Disease Progression:
Cognition, Function and Behavior

First description of disease 1906

		Asymptomatic	MCI	Mild Dementia	Moderate Dementia	Severe Dementia
1996	donepezil (Aricept)					
2000	rivastigmine (Exelon)					
2001	galantamine (Razadyne)					
2003	memantine (Namenda)					
2014	memantine + donepezil (Namzaric)					
2020	suvorexant* (Belsomra)					
2023	lecanemab (Leqembi)					
2023	brexpiprazole (Rexulti)					
2024	donanemab (Kisunla)					
2024	benzgalantamine (Zunveyl)					

Anti-Amyloid Monoclonal Antibodies



First treatments to address the underlying biology of Alzheimer's disease
(Not a cure)



Targets and reduces amyloid plaques in the brains of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease

Treatment May be Appropriate for People With Both:



Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer's disease or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease



Evidence of a buildup of amyloid plaques in the brain

Possible Side Effects

The most common side effects are:

Always speak with your doctor about any possible side effects to your medications.

Side Effect	What It Means	What to Know
Amyloid related imaging abnormalities (ARIA)	Small changes seen on brain scans in some people receiving anti-amyloid treatment.	Can be serious but usually causes no symptoms and goes away on its own. Doctors do regular MRIs to watch for it.
Falls	A person may feel light-headed or dizzy during treatment or from other health changes.	Report any dizziness or balance change to your doctor.
Infusion Reactions	Can happen during or soon after IV infusions (medicine through a vein).	May cause fever, chills, rash, or nausea.
Headache	A common side effect, sometimes linked to ARIA or the infusion itself.	Often mild. Tell your care team if it's severe or persistent.

How the Treatment is Administered



By IV infusion
(by vein into the
bloodstream)



Leqembi -
every two weeks
Kisunla – every four
weeks



In general, infusion
can be done at:
- Hospitals
- Infusion therapy centers

Who Is a Potential Candidate for Treatment?

Treatment may be appropriate for people who have:

- Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, and
- Evidence of amyloid buildup (plaques) in the brain.

How doctors confirm amyloid buildup:

- Tests such as cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis or amyloid PET imaging may be used.
- The FDA does not specify which test must be used — your care team will decide what's best.

Before starting treatment:

- The FDA recommends genetic testing for the APOE-e4 gene, which helps determine the risk of side effects like ARIA.

Important notes:

- These medicines are only approved for Alzheimer's-related dementia, not for other types.
- There isn't enough data yet on starting treatment earlier or later than the stages studied in clinical trials.

How to Access Treatment

- Talk to your doctor to determine if you are a candidate for the treatment. You may be eligible if you have both:

A diagnosis of MCI due to Alzheimer's or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's

Confirmation of amyloid plaques in the brain

- You may be referred to a specialist to determine if it is an appropriate treatment for you



If You Do Not Have a Diagnosis



Learn about the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease



Visit your doctor



Share your concerns



Get a diagnosis



You may be referred to a specialist to determine appropriate treatment

Coverage for Cost of Treatments

- Treatment is covered in different ways, depending on the age of the diagnosed individual.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has said they will cover the drug as long as an individual's physician enrolls them in a CMS-approved registry.
- ALZ-NET is the Alzheimer's Association's registry that offers a platform for patients to access resources and participating sites. Alz-net.org
- Those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid can receive coverage. There may be additional state requirements.
- Younger individuals will need to work with their health insurance provider to determine if these medications are covered. Coverage varies by health plan.
- The U.S. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will also cover these drugs for some veterans.

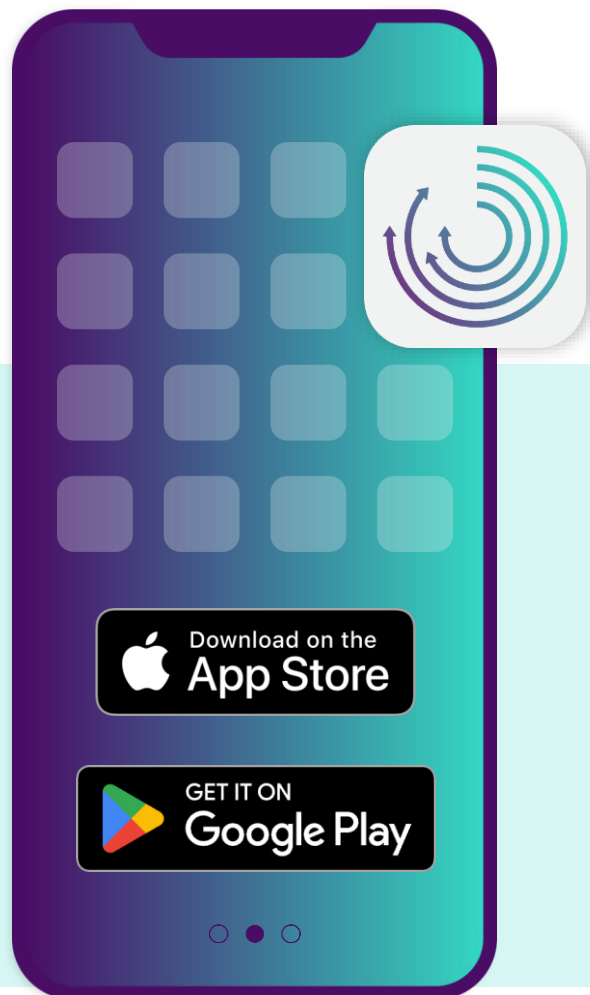
The Alzheimer's Association is working closely with CMS, other payers, the physician community, our health systems and other community partners to work toward a smooth rollout for patients who can benefit.



My ALZ Journey

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

**Support, guidance
and connection for
newly diagnosed
people and care
partners –
all in one app**



Free mobile app for newly diagnosed individuals and care partners



Provides personalized guidance, trusted resources and local connections



Helps users understand their diagnosis, stay independent and plan for the future



Connects users to their local Alzheimer's Association chapter for programs and support



Built with input from people living with dementia and care partners



24/7 Helpline and website: www.alz.org

The Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900) is a free service offering confidential information and support for people living with dementia, caregivers, families and the public.



Free Education and Support

The Association offers robust information, education and support both in person and online, and helps to connect individuals with resources in the community.

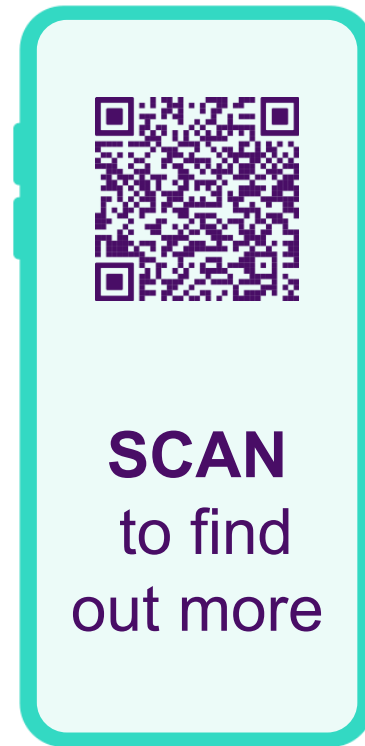


ALZConnected

The Association connects individuals living with cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease or another dementia and caregivers to one another on this free online message board. alzconnected.org

Get Involved in Research

- TrialMatch is a **free clinical studies matching service** designed to provide a **customized list** of potential study matches to each user.
- Healthy and cognitively impaired people from all backgrounds are needed to participate in Alzheimer's and dementia research.



trialmatch[®]
ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION[®]

Experimental /
Clinical Trials

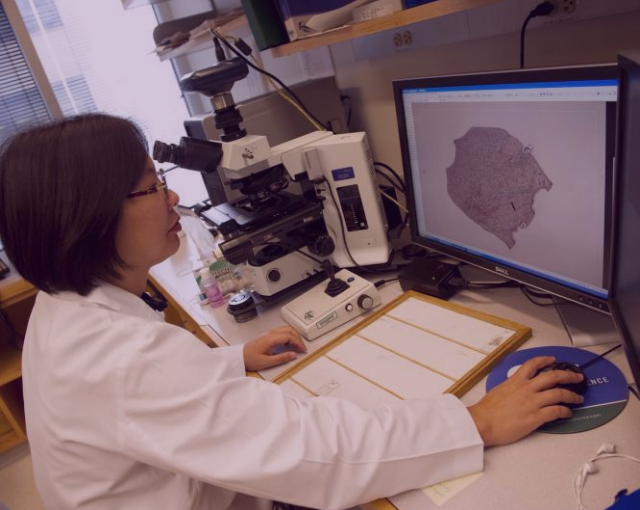
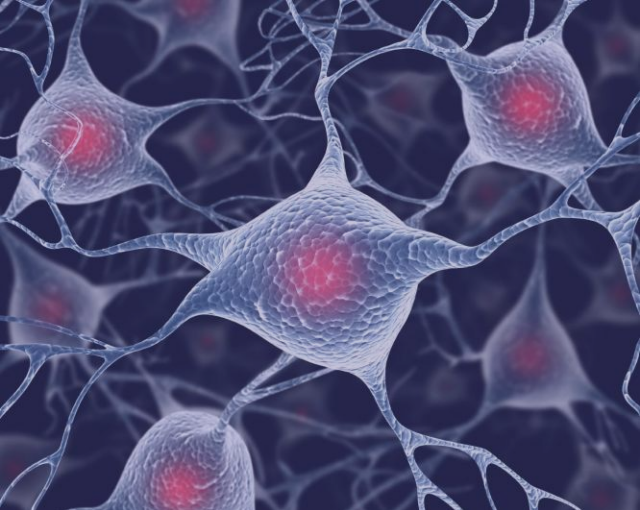
Observational
Studies

Online
Surveys

Interviews /
Focus Groups



**Our Vision: A world without
Alzheimer's and all
other dementia®.**



Thank you for joining us