New Advances in Alzheimer’s Treatments
Speaker

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New Advances in Alzheimer’s Treatments

800.272.3900  |  alz.org
Learning Objectives:

- List the FDA-approved treatments for Alzheimer's
- Explain the impact of aducanumab (Aduhelm™) on amyloid plaques in the brain, and the drug's potential benefits and side effects
- Explain the pathways to access treatment
- Describe the resources available through the Alzheimer's Association®
MORE THAN 6 MILLION
Americans are living with Alzheimer’s

OVER 11 MILLION
Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer’s or other dementias
### Louisiana Alzheimer’s Statistics

#### Proportion of Americans Aged 71 and Older with Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias

**Aging, Demographics, And Memory Study (ADAMS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>African American</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
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#### Caregiving (2019)

- **231,000** Number of Caregivers
- **264,000,000** Total Hours of Unpaid Care

#### Number of People Aged 65 and Older with Alzheimer’s by Age*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>65-74</th>
<th>75-84</th>
<th>85+</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>92,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
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* Totals may not add due to rounding

#### Hospital and Hospice Statistics

- **1,771** # of emergency department visits per 1,000 people with dementia
- **4,786** # of people in hospice with a primary diagnosis of dementia
- **$765 MILLION** Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer’s (2020)
- **22.1%** change in costs from 2020 to 2025

#### Geriatricians

- **31** # of geriatricians in 2019
- **53.9%** increase needed to meet Alzheimer’s population needs in 2050

#### Medicare

- **$29,001** per capita Medicare spending on people with dementia (in 2019 dollars)
What is Dementia & Alzheimer’s?

- Dementia is a collection of symptoms related to cognitive decline
- Can include cognitive, behavioral and psychological symptoms
- Due to biological changes in the brain
- Alzheimer’s is most common cause
Who is at risk?

- Age
- Family history
- Heredity
- Head injury
- Lifestyle

1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer’s or another dementia

It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined
BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICANS are about 2x and HISPANIC / LATINOS are about 1.5x more like than WHITES to have Alzheimer’s or other dementias... …YET they are less likely to receive a diagnosis
The impact on caregivers

- People age 65+ survive an average of four to eight years after a diagnosis, yet some live as long as 20 years.
- Individuals with Alzheimer’s will spend an average of 40 percent of the time in dementia’s most severe stage.
- The long duration of the disease contributes significantly to the public health impact of Alzheimer’s.
Who Are the Alzheimer’s Caregivers?

Of caregivers who provide more than 40 hours per week of care, 73% are women.
Cost of Alzheimer’s Care Will Rise

Total annual payments for health care, long-term care and hospice care are projected to increase from $305 billion in 2020 to more than $1.1 trillion in 2050.
FDA-Approved Therapies for Alzheimer's

Most of the currently available therapies do not modify or slow disease, only treat symptoms.
Alzheimer’s Is a Complex Disease

Research is targeting many potential causes of Alzheimer’s disease, including the two hallmarks of the disease:

- Tau neurofibrillary tangles
- Beta-amyloid protein plaques
# How Aducanumab Is Designed to Work

<table>
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<tr>
<th>First treatment to address the underlying biology of Alzheimer’s disease (Not a cure)</th>
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<td>Targets and reduces amyloid plaques in the brains of individuals living with Alzheimer’s</td>
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<th>Treatment may be appropriate for people with both:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer’s disease or mild (early) Alzheimer’s dementia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence of a buildup of amyloid plaques in the brain</td>
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Benefits May Include:

- **Reduction in cognitive decline**
  (memory and thinking)

- **Reduction in functional decline**
  (activities of daily life, sustained independence)

*Individual response to aducanumab may vary*
Possible Side Effects

All drugs have side effects

For aducanumab, the most common side effects were:

- Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA)
- Headache
- Fall
Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities (ARIA)

• ARIA is a common but manageable side effect that does not usually cause any symptoms, but can be serious

• It is typically a temporary swelling in areas of the brain that usually resolves over time

• Some people may also have small spots of bleeding in or on the surface of the brain

Patients should be monitored for ARIA before and during treatment with MRI scans
How the Treatment is Administered

By IV infusion (by vein into the bloodstream)

every 4 weeks

In general, infusion can be done at:
- Hospitals
- Infusion therapy centers
Who Is a Potential Candidate for the Treatment?

Treatment may be appropriate for people with both:

1. Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer's OR mild (early) Alzheimer’s dementia

2. Evidence of a buildup of amyloid plaques in the brain
   - Tests like cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis or amyloid PET imaging should be a part of the diagnostic process to determine eligibility for the treatment

*Not approved for other types of dementia.*
How to Access Treatment

• Nationwide distribution and implementation will take some time
• 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 (early) Alzheimer’s dementia
  
  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 Treatment

At this time, we do not know... What insurance coverage will be for aducanumab

How Medicare will cover this treatment

The Alzheimer’s Association will do everything in its power to ensure access to the drug, any tests needed during the treatment process, and other associated costs — including any diagnostic.
Alzheimer’s Association Resources

### 24/7 HELPLINE
**1.800.272.3900**
- Information and referral
- Care consultation
- Language line allows translation services to support 200+ languages

### ALZ.ORG
- Information and referral
- Information/resources for every stage, in several languages
- Free online education programs, several available in Spanish
- Online resources
  - ALZConnected®
  - Community Resource Finder

### IN THE COMMUNITY
- Education programs, support groups and early-stage programs
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate materials, including Spanish-language and LGBTQ-focused brochures
24/7 Helpline

- Available around the clock, 365 days a year.
- Helpline specialists and master’s-level clinicians offer confidential support and information.
- Bilingual staff and translation service in 200+ languages
- Live chat available.
- TTY Service 866.403.3073
Virtual Programs

- Free online e-learnings available at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)
  - 10 Warning Signs
  - Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia
  - Dementia Conversations
  - Effective Communication Strategies
  - Legal and Financial Planning
  - Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors
- ALZ Navigator

We have transitioned in-person support groups and education programs to virtual platforms during COVID-19 pandemic
Community Resource Finder

www.communityresourcefinder.org

Get easy access to resources, community programs and services.

Based on guidance from local governments and health departments during the COVID-19 crisis, many programs will be offered virtually rather than in-person.
Our Vision: 

A world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementia®.
Questions?
Thank you for joining us!