

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: MAINTAINING MENTAL FUNCTION

Confusion or memory loss are not normal aspects of aging. Talk to your health care provider if you experience these symptoms or any other signs of Alzheimer's disease.




FDA encourages diverse participation in clinical trials.


If you think a clinical trial may be right for you, talk to your health care provider.

You can also search for clinical trials in your area at www.clinicaltrials.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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What is Alzheimer's disease?

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, irreversible brain disorder that affects memory, thinking, and language skills. The cause is unknown, but brain cells stop functioning, lose connections with other brain cells, and die. In advanced stages, a person living with Alzheimer's disease will experience dementia: a decline in brain function severe enough to interfere with daily life.

What are the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease?

Experiencing worsening or more frequent memory loss or confusion is one of the earliest noticeable symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Other symptoms involve changes in thinking and language skills such as problems with handling money, completing tasks, or struggling to speak or write. The mood or personality of a person living with Alzheimer's disease may be affected, and they may withdraw from work or social activities.



How is Alzheimer's disease diagnosed?

Alzheimer's disease affects 1 in 10 adults aged 65 and older, but less than half of those living with Alzheimer's disease have been diagnosed. No single test is available to definitively diagnose the disease, but your health care provider can perform a medical evaluation and rule out other potential causes of your symptoms.

How is Alzheimer's disease treated?

Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, there are several FDA-approved medications for mild to severe Alzheimer's disease. These medications are used to treat the symptoms or slow the progression of the disease.

- **Aducanumab** is a medication used to treat mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.
- **Cholinesterase inhibitors** are medications used to treat mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

- **N-methyl D-aspartate (NMDA) antagonist** is a medication used to treat moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease.

Treatment for Alzheimer's disease also often requires the management of other health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and depression.



Always talk to your health care provider before taking any medication or treatment. Many dietary supplements sold over the counter or on the internet claiming to prevent, treat, or cure Alzheimer's disease are unproven by the FDA and can be potentially unsafe.