Alzheimer's Disease

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/alzheimersdisease.html

Also called: AD

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common form of dementia among older people. Dementia is a brain disorder that seriously affects a person's ability to carry out daily activities.

AD begins slowly. It first involves the parts of the brain that control thought, memory and language. People with AD may have trouble remembering things that happened recently or names of people they know. A related problem, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), causes more memory problems than normal for people of the same age. Many, but not all, people with MCI will develop AD.

In AD, over time, symptoms get worse. People may not recognize family members or have trouble speaking, reading or writing. They may forget how to brush their teeth or comb their hair. Later on, they may become anxious or aggressive, or wander away from home. Eventually, they need total care. This can cause great stress for family members who must care for them.

AD usually begins after age 60. The risk goes up as you get older. Your risk is also higher if a family member has had the disease.

No treatment can stop the disease. However, some drugs may help keep symptoms from getting worse for a limited time.

NIH: National Institute on Aging

Start Here

- Alzheimer's Disease [http://nihseniorhealth.gov/alzheimersdisease/whatisalzheimersdisease/01.html] NIHSeniorHealth (National Institute on Aging)

Overviews

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nia.nih.gov/node/4447]
- alzheimers.gov [http://www.alzheimers.gov/] (Department of Health and Human Services)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.alzheimers.gov/espanol/]

Latest News
For Some, Mild Slips of Memory May Be Very Early Alzheimer's

Scientists Detail Alzheimer's Progression, Step by Step


**New!** Brain Changes Detected 20 Years Before Alzheimer's Symptoms

**New!** Physical Activity Keeps the Brain Healthy [http://www.alzinfo.org/07/articles/prevention-and-wellness/physical-activity-brain-healthy] (07/10/2013, Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation)


More News on Alzheimer's Disease

**Diagnosis/Symptoms**


**Treatment**

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nia.nih.gov/node/4412]

**Prevention/Screening**

- Brain Health [http://www.alz.org/we_can_help_brain_health_maintain_your_brain.asp] (Alzheimer's Association)

**Alternative Therapy**

Nutrition

Coping
- Coping with Changes [http://www.alz.org/living_with_alzhtm_coping_with_changes.asp] (Alzheimer's Association)
- Making Choices about Everyday Care (for Families) [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=406] (Family Caregiver Alliance)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/alzheimerscaregivers.html]

Disease Management
- Alzheimer's Therapeutic Activities [http://www.alzinfo.org/08/treatment-care/therapeutic-activities] (Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation)
- Alzheimer's: 7 Tips for Medical Visits [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/alzheimers/AZ00029/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Diet, Exercise and Health [http://www.alzinfo.org/08/treatment-care/diet-exercise-health] (Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.alz.org/espanol/signs_and_symptoms/comportamientos.asp]
- Sundowning: Late-Day Confusion [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/sundowning/HQ01463/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Specific Conditions
- Early-Onset Alzheimer's: When Symptoms Begin Before 65 [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/alz.htmms/AZ00009/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Seven Stages of Alzheimer's [http://www.alz.org/alz.htmms_disease_stages_of_alz.htmms.asp] (Alzheimer's Association)

Related Issues
- Alzheimer's Disease and Down Syndrome [http://www.ndss.org/Resources/Health-Care/Associated-
Conditions/Alzheimers-Disease-Down-Syndrome/ (National Down Syndrome Society)

- Alzheimer's or Depression: Could It Be Both? [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/alzheimers/HQ00212/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
  Also available in Spanish [http://familydoctor.org/online/famdoces/home/common/mentalhealth/depression/044.printerview.html]
- Elder Care for Alzheimer's: Choosing a Provider [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/elder-care/AN02111/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Tau/Amyloid Beta 42 Peptide Test (Alzheimer Biomarkers) [http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/tau/tab/test] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)

Tutorials

- Alzheimer's Disease [http://nihseniorhealth.gov/alzheimersdisease/whatisalzheimersdisease/01.html] NIHSeniorHealth (National Institute on Aging)

Videos


Anatomy/Physiology


Financial Issues

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Alzheimer Disease [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Alzheimer+Disease%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Genetics


Research

- Alzheimer Disease: Before the Diagnosis [http://neurology.org/content/80/13/e148.full.pdf] American Academy of Neurology - PDF
Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Is there any way I can prevent, or at least... [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23802333?tool=MedlinePlus]

Dictionaries/Glossaries


Directories


Organizations

- Administration on Aging [http://www.aoa.gov]
- Alzheimer's Association [http://www.alz.org/]
- Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation [http://www.alzinfo.org/]
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nia.nih.gov/Espanol/]

Law and Policy


Statistics


MedlinePlus Magazine

- 7 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's


New NIA Booklet By and For People With Early-Stage Alzheimer’s Disease [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/magazine/issues/fall07/articles/fall07pg11a.html] NIH


Children

Alzheimer Disease [http://kidshealth.org/kid/grownup/conditions/alzheimers.html] (Nemours Foundation)


Teenagers


Patient Handouts


Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000760.htm]


Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/007341.htm]


Coping with Agitation and Aggression [http://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/Alzheimers_Caregiving_Tips_Coping_with_Agitation_and_Aggression.pdf] NIH (National Institute on Aging) - PDF


Grooming and Dressing [http://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/alzheimers_caregiving_tips_grooming_and_dressing_0.pdf] NIH (National Institute on Aging) - PDF


• Helping Kids Understand Alzheimer's Disease

• Incontinence

• Managing Medicines

• Managing Personality and Behavior Changes

• Mental status testing [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003326.htm]
Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003326.htm]

• Rummaging and Hiding Things

• What Is Alzheimer’s Disease?
[http://www.aao.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Products_Materials/pdf/Alzheimers_Disease.pdf] (Administration on Aging) - PDF

**You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:**


• Brain PET scan [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007341.htm]


• Mental status testing [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003326.htm]

**You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:**


• Caregivers [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/caregivers.html]

• Dementia [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/dementia.html]

• Memory [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/memory.html]


• Brain and Nerves [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/brainandnerves.html]

• Mental Health and Behavior [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mentalhealthandbehavior.html]

• Seniors [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/seniors.html]

The primary NIH organization for research on Alzheimer's Disease is the National Institute on Aging [http://www.nia.nih.gov/]

Alzheimer’s Disease - Multiple Languages [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/languages/alzheimersdisease.html]

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