With Alzheimer’s disease, an early diagnosis means more options

Alzheimer’s disease begins years before symptoms appear and gets worse slowly. About 1 in 10 people over 65 have Alzheimer’s.

At first, symptoms may not be noticeable, but they get worse over time. Once diagnosed, people with Alzheimer’s live an average of 4–8 years, but they can live as long as 20 years.

Pay attention to small changes

Some early signs and symptoms of Alzheimer’s:
- Memory loss
- Misplacing items
- Challenges or problems with familiar tasks
- Confusion
- Changes in mood
- Social isolation

Don’t delay

If you notice any changes in memory or thinking, don’t assume they are normal signs of aging. They might be. But they might be the early signs of Alzheimer’s.

Early diagnosis = better outcomes

Alzheimer’s drugs can help some people, especially when taken at the first sign of changes in memory or thinking. Less cognitive impairment at diagnosis is linked with a longer life expectancy.

Treatment options change as the disease progresses. The newer treatments depend on an early, accurate diagnosis because they’re not effective at a later stage.

Early diagnosis = more treatment options

Early stage treatments: slow disease progression

These drugs attach and remove beta-amyloid from the brain. But these types of drugs only work for so long. As the disease gets worse, brain damage becomes irreversible. Treatments can’t slow down the pace anymore.

Beta-amyloid is a protein that clumps together to form sticky plaques in the brain, causing brain cells to die.

Later stage treatments: help manage symptoms

These drugs include:
- Cholinesterase inhibitors manage symptoms of mild dementia, such as memory and thinking
- Glutamate regulators manage symptoms of moderate to severe dementia, such as performing simple tasks
- Orexin receptor antagonist treat dementia-related insomnia

Two types of Alzheimer’s drugs

- Drugs that may slow or change how the disease progresses in earlier stages
- Drugs that help manage symptoms in later stages

Early treatment is possible

Alzheimer’s can be diagnosed earlier than ever. An early diagnosis can ensure you get the best treatment options possible.

Don’t wait

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have symptoms of Alzheimer’s.

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