

# Neurological Disorders

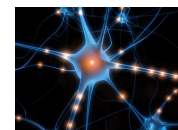
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## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



### ALZHEIMER'S FACTS

- A new case every 70 seconds
- 148 billion dollars annual costs
- 9.9 million unpaid caregivers
- More women than men have the disease
- No known cure
- Treatment focuses on managing symptoms

### NORMAL AGEING

- Forgets part of an experience
- Often remembers later
- Able to follow written and spoken directions
- Able to use notes as reminders
- Able to care for self

### ALZHEIMER'S

- Forgets entire experience
- Rarely remembers later
- Unable to follow written or spoken directions
- Unable to use notes as reminders
- Unable to care for self

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and affects 5.3 million Americans. On June 12, 2008, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that Alzheimer's disease is now the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States; surpassing diabetes.

Many of us worry about growing old and becoming forgetful. Most of us will eventually notice some slowed thinking and some problem remembering certain things. This is a normal part of aging.

Serious memory loss, confusion and other major changes in the way our minds work are not a normal part of aging.

The brain has 100 billion

nerve cells that operate like tiny factories. Normally, they keep things running in a coordinated manner. Scientists believe that Alzheimer's disease prevents parts of the cell's factory from running well. Though most people develop some plaque and tangles in the brain as they age, those with Alzheimer's tend to develop far more. As damage spreads, cells lose their ability to do their jobs and, eventually, die.

The severity and speed in which people develop Alzheimer's is often very different from one person to the next. Most people experience common patterns and symptoms such as:

- Increasing and persistent forgetfulness
- Difficulty with abstract

thinking

- Difficulty finding the right word
- Disorientation
- Loss of judgment
- Difficulty performing familiar tasks
- Personality changes

There is no single test that proves a person has Alzheimer's. Experts estimate that a skilled physician can diagnosis the condition with 90 percent accuracy. Although there's no cure for Alzheimer's, researchers have made progress. The sooner the disease is evaluated and diagnosed, the more options you're likely to have in improving your symptoms and making decisions about your life and future health care.



## RESEARCH



In 2007, tremendous advances were made in AD research. Scientists are currently studying or testing different types of drugs and other substances to determine if they can stop AD progression, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS); statins (such as those used for lowering cholesterol); folic acid; ginkgo biloba; huperzine; and vitamins E, B6, and B12. Studies in basic sci-

ence are also exploring the potential of vaccines. Regular 'screenings' are being advocated by some - with the U.S. House of Representatives recently passing a bill in support of early memory check-ups. Progress has been made in improving early diagnosis and predicting who is at high risk for AD, thus making it possible for treatment to start early in the course of the disease.

The closest research center to Ohio is located at the University of Michigan. Currently they are recruiting individuals for a clinical drug trial on Bapineuzumab. Bapineuzumab is an antibody that scientist hope will attach to the amyloid protein that gathers in the AD person's brain and help the body remove it.