

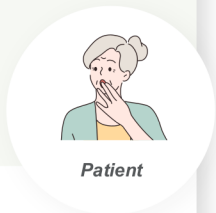
Why a timely diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is important

A timely diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD) provides patients and their families an opportunity to plan for the future while the patient can make sound decisions and also lifestyle changes to maintain quality of life.^{1,2}

ID IDENTIFY
AD ALZHEIMER'S
DISEASE
Provided by Biogen

What is challenging about a timely and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease?

- **Mischaracterizing early AD symptoms**, especially early symptoms, as part of the normal ageing process.³
- **Fear of diagnosis** due to stigma associated with AD.³
- **Lack of awareness** regarding own cognitive decline (anosognosia).³



Did you know that...

Underdiagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia cases is very frequent even in high income countries?

In primary care, **50-80% of cases are not recognised/documentated.**⁶

[†]Physician responses on barriers for a timely diagnosis:³
(n= 1365*; 37% primary care, 63% secondary care**)



People do not disclose their symptoms.



People/families think symptoms are due to normal ageing.

What is challenging about a timely and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease?

- **Differential diagnosis:** Diagnosing AD in the early stages can be challenging due to the required differential diagnosis to rule out other neurological conditions or the cognitive decline due to normal ageing.²⁻⁵
- **Lack of standardized protocols** for AD diagnosis, and access to diagnostic tests.²⁻⁵
- **Lack of time and specialist knowledge** in how to detect and diagnose AD.^{2,3}
- **Lack of referral pathway** between primary and specialty care.^{2,3}



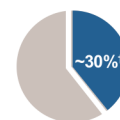
Did you know that...

Misdiagnosis occurs in approx. **30%** of the detected Alzheimer's disease and other dementia cases?⁷

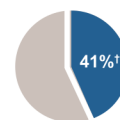
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Lack of multidisciplinary team.



Lack of diagnosis tools and standard diagnostic pathway.



Limited benefit of reaching a timely diagnosis.

*Multicountry, cross-sectional survey with physicians that care for MCI and AD patients. **Geriatrician, neurologist, psychiatrist, and psychogeriatrician.

What are the benefits of a timely Alzheimer's disease diagnosis?

Timely detection of AD provides an opportunity for patients to **take action before they lose the ability to function independently.** This benefits them in the following ways:^{2,4,8,9}

Understanding the cause of cognitive decline	Medical Benefits	Risk reduction of cognitive decline
Emotional and social benefits	Planning for the future	Evolving care team



A timely diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease requires:

- **Communication** – Enabling open dialogue between HCPs and patient can help address fear and stigma associated with AD, as this may prevent patients from seeking the help and support they need.¹⁰
- **Education** – Patients and their care partners should be educated about the different stages of the disease, and what to expect.¹⁰
- **Support** - Person-centered support for the diagnosed individual and their care partners to discuss concerns and provide tailored support throughout the patient journey.¹⁰
- **Integrated specialized AD care** - A multidisciplinary group should work together to consider all beneficial aspects of a timely AD diagnosis.^{2,3}

Learn more about benefits of a timely Alzheimer's diagnosis

Go to the website: www.identifyalz.eu >



References

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