



Alzheimer's Disease Research

FDA-Approved Alzheimer's Therapies

Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, certain treatments can help control or delay its symptoms, particularly in the early stages of the disease. Talk to your physician to see if these medications are right for you.

Therapy Types



Anti-amyloid therapies may slow cognitive and functional decline in early-stage Alzheimer's but come with specific eligibility and monitoring requirements. Also known as disease-modifying medications, they target the potential cause of the disease, not just the symptoms.



Cognitive symptom-management treatments remain widely used and may be appropriate at different stages.



Behavioral or psychiatric medications treat symptoms like agitation or sleep disruption.

Drug Name	Effective Stage of Alzheimer's Disease	How It Works	Delivery Method	FDA Approval Year
Leqembi (lecanemab)	mild moderate severe	Slows Alzheimer's-associated cognitive decline by clearing small clumps of beta-amyloid & larger beta-amyloid plaques from the brain.	Intravenous infusion or subcutaneous injection	2023
Kisunla (donanemab)	mild moderate severe	Removes large beta-amyloid plaques to slow cognitive decline in people with early signs of Alzheimer's disease.	Intravenous infusion	2024
Exelon (rivastigmine)	mild moderate severe	Helps with memory and daily function by keeping more acetylcholine in the brain (similar to Aricept).	Oral Medication or Transdermal Patch	2000
Razadyne (galantamine)	mild moderate severe	Improves thinking and memory by raising acetylcholine levels in the brain, making it easier for brain cells to communicate.	Oral Medication	2001
Zunveyl (benzgalantamine)	mild moderate severe	Supports memory and thinking by helping the brain retain more acetylcholine; designed to reduce stomach side effects compared to Razadyne.	Oral Medication	2024
Namenda (memantine)	mild moderate severe	Reduces forgetfulness and confusion by protecting brain cells from excess glutamate, a chemical that can be harmful in large amounts.	Oral Medication or Liquid	2003
Namzaric (memantine + donepezil)	mild moderate severe	Improves cognition and overall daily function by combining Aricept and Namenda.	Oral Medication	2014
Aricept (donepezil)	mild moderate severe	Improves awareness, memory, and daily function by preventing the breakdown of an important brain chemical, acetylcholine.	Oral Medication	1996
Belsomra (suvorexant)	mild moderate severe	Improves sleep by blocking a brain chemical that keeps you awake.	Oral Medication	2014
Rexulti (brexpiprazole)	mild moderate severe	Helps reduce agitation and restlessness by balancing important chemicals in the brain.	Oral Medication	2023
Auvelity (dextromethorphan + bupropion)	mild moderate severe	Treats agitation associated with dementia by interacting with two signaling pathways in the brain to reduce toxicity and stress.	Oral Medication	2026

Hundreds of promising treatments are in development, but they're not the only path forward. Lifestyle changes—like regular exercise, a brain-healthy diet, and other healthy habits—may also help slow cognitive decline and lower Alzheimer's risk.



View more information about approved Alzheimer's treatments at brightfocus.org/AlzTreatments.



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