

Alzheimer's Disease: The Latest in Diagnostic Testing

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Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common dementia in the United States, and recent developments in its diagnosis and treatment have changed how we approach this disease. By reviewing the history of how AD was first identified and diagnosed, we can better understand current methods to pinpoint the abnormal proteins of amyloid and tau. We will review clinically available tools including cerebrospinal fluid analysis, amyloid positron emission tomography (PET), and blood-based biomarkers. Finally, we will identify clinicians who aid in the diagnosis of AD and how they utilize these tests.

Following this presentation, the participant will be able to:

1. Name the abnormal proteins found in Alzheimer's disease, amyloid and tau.
2. Compare previous clinical diagnostic criteria to ones that include positive biomarkers.
3. List tests used to diagnose Alzheimer's disease, and differentiate the process and findings between cerebrospinal fluid analysis, amyloid PET brain, and blood-based biomarkers.
4. Describe the clinicians who diagnose Alzheimer's disease and how they use these tests.

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