Update on Alzheimer's Drugs, 2023   **HANDOUT I**

1. **What are the new drugs and how do they differ?**

    There are actually three drugs:

    <u>Aducanumab</u> – received accelerated approval in 2021; controversial decision; it binds to amyloid plaques.

    <u>Lecanemab</u> – approved in 2023, 27% of treated patients were found to have 5.1 months delay over 18 months treatment in their cognitive deterioration; it mainly targets Aβ protofibrils.

    <u>Donanemab</u> – seeking FDA approval soon; superior to Aducanumab in amyloid clearance; slowed clinical deterioration in 35% of treated patients vs. placebo and with a 40% less decline in ADLs. 76 weeks; it binds to clumped amyloid fibers.

2. **What do these new drugs mean for the treatment of patients with moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease?**

    Currently the meds are meant for symptomatic MCI (secondary to amyloid) or Early Stage Alzheimer's disease.

3. **How do you accurately diagnose the early stages of Alzheimer's and know if these drugs are appropriate?**

    A. Amyloid PET scan,
    B. CSF analysis for Aβ42/40 and pTau ratio; pTau/Aβ42 > 0.023
    C. In the near future, plasma biomarkers (e.g. p Tau181 &Tau 217) will be available.

4. **Are these drugs readily available here at UAMS?**

    Not yet. But hopefully in the near future.

5. **Are they covered by UMR and Medicare?**

    UMR not yet; Medicare 80% covered, patients have 20% co-pay; all patients have to register for post-marketing surveillance.