

## Dementia

- ❖ A syndrome in which there is decline in memory, general cognition, or behavior to the point that it interferes with function

Governor's Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease

## Alzheimer Disease: Management

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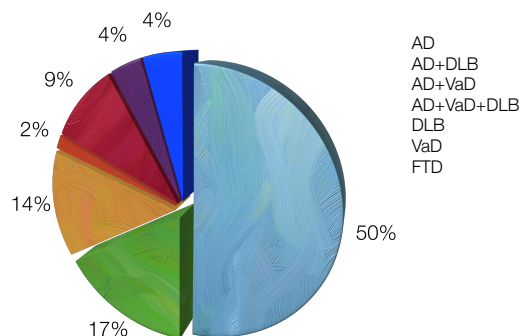
## Common Causes of Dementia

- ❖ Alzheimer Disease (AD)
- ❖ Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB)
- ❖ Vascular Dementia (VaD)
- ❖ Fronto-Temporal Dementia (FTD)

## Uncommon Causes of Dementia

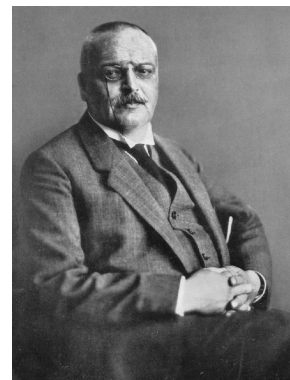
- ❖ Parkinson Disease
- ❖ Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus
- ❖ Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

## Cause of Dementia at Autopsy



Barker et al, Alz Dis Assoc Dis 2002;16:203-212

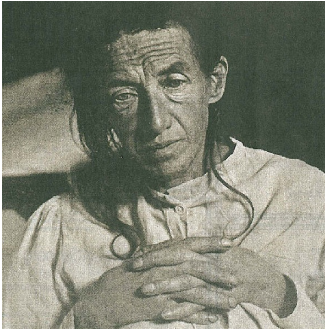
## Alois Alzheimer



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## Auguste Deter

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## Alzheimer Disease (NINCDS/ADRDA)

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- ❖ Dementia of insidious onset
- ❖ Steady progression of dementia
- ❖ Memory is prominently affected
- ❖ Onset after age 60
- ❖ Neurological exam otherwise normal
- ❖ Family history of dementia is supportive

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## Probable Alzheimer Disease (NIA/AA)

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- ❖ Meets criteria for dementia
- ❖ Insidious onset
- ❖ Evidence of progression
- ❖ Not due to another condition

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## Presentations of AD

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- ❖ Amnesic presentation
- ❖ Non-amnesic presentations
  - ❖ Language presentation
    - ❖ Most prominent findings are word-finding difficulty
  - ❖ Visuospatial presentation
    - ❖ Most prominent deficits are in spatial cognition, simultanagnosia, prosopagnosia
  - ❖ Executive presentation
    - ❖ Impaired reasoning, judgement, problem solving

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## Possible Alzheimer Disease

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- ❖ Atypical course
  - ❖ Sudden onset or no evidence of progression
- ❖ Etiologically mixed presentation
  - ❖ Evidence of significant vascular disease, Lewy body disease, or other medical conditions

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## How Is Dementia Diagnosed?

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- ❖ Diagnosis of dementia is clinical:
  - ❖ Depends on history of cognitive decline
  - ❖ Cognitive decline demonstrated on exam
  - ❖ History of functional impairment or decline
- ❖ Lab tests and scans used to exclude other disease
- ❖ Cause of dementia determined clinically:
  - ❖ No scan or lab test can make the diagnosis

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## Diagnostic Testing in Dementia

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- ❖ Lab tests
  - ❖ General metabolic labs
  - ❖ Complete Blood Count (CBC)
  - ❖ Thyroid functions
  - ❖ Vitamin B12
- ❖ Imaging tests
  - ❖ To exclude (or “rule out”) structural disease that would change treatment (like tumors)
  - ❖ In most cases, CT without contrast is best

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## Non-routine Tests in Dementia

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- ❖ Syphilis serology (RPR, VDRL)
- ❖ EEG
- ❖ Neuropsychological Testing
- ❖ PET imaging
- ❖ Genetic testing (eg, ApoE genotyping)

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## Management of Dementia

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- ❖ Diagnostic disclosure and discussion
- ❖ Referral to support services (Alzheimer’s Arkansas)
- ❖ Address safety issues or concerns
- ❖ Address legal and financial concerns
- ❖ Medications for dementia
- ❖ Management of behavioral symptoms

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## General Statements about Drug Treatment for AD

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- ❖ All approved drugs are symptomatic only
- ❖ All drugs show only modest effects in delaying symptomatic progression
- ❖ No drugs have been found which are neuroprotective
- ❖ No drugs slow disease progression

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## Drug Treatments for Alzheimer Disease

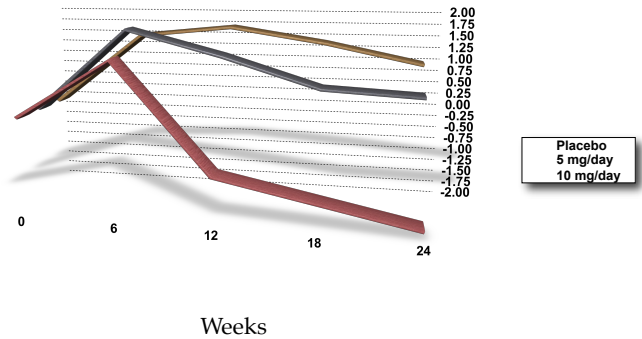
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- ❖ Cholinesterase inhibitors (CEIs)
  - ❖ Donepezil (Aricept®)
  - ❖ Rivastigmine (Exelon®)
  - ❖ Galantamine (Razadyne®)
- ❖ NMDA Antagonists
  - ❖ Memantine (Namenda®)
- ❖ Combination Drugs
  - ❖ Namzaric® (donepezil + memantine)

## Donepezil (Aricept®)

- ❖ Two dose forms, regular and ODT (orally disintegrating tablet)
- ❖ Three doses, 5 mg, 10 mg, 23 mg\*
- ❖ Once daily dosing
- ❖ Approved for mild, moderate, or severe AD

## ADAS-Cog on Donepezil

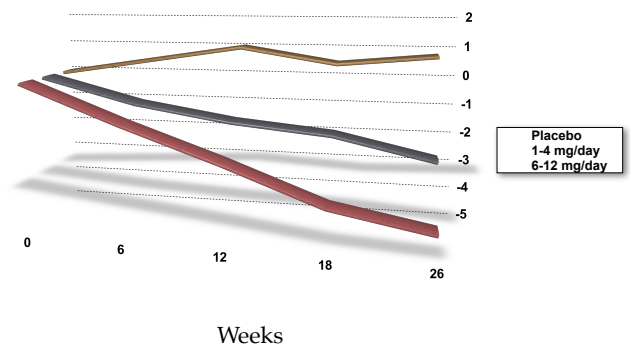


Rogers et al, Neurology 1998;50:136-145

## Rivastigmine (Exelon®)

- ❖ Available as oral capsules or transdermal patch
- ❖ Capsules are BID dosing, 1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg, and 6 mg
- ❖ Patch: 4.6 mg/24 hrs; 9.5 mg/24hrs, and 13.3 mg/24 hrs
- ❖ Approved for mild, moderate, or severe AD

## ADAS-Cog on Rivastigmine

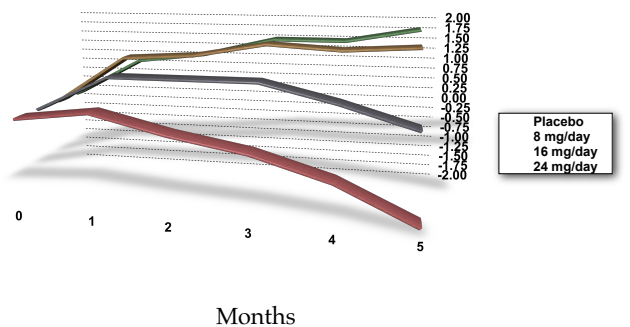


Corey-Bloom et al 1998, Int J Ger Psychopharm 1:55-65

## Galantamine (Razadyne®)

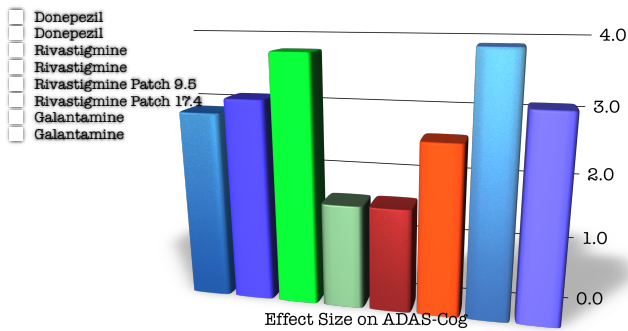
- ❖ Immediate-release (4 mg, 8 mg, 12 mg)
- ❖ Twice-daily dosing
- ❖ Extended-release tablets (8 mg, 16 mg, 24 mg)
- ❖ Once-daily dosing
- ❖ Approved for mild or moderate AD

## ADAS-Cog on Galantamine



Tariot et al, Neurology 2000;54:2269-2276

## CEI Effect Sizes



## Summary on CEIs

- ❖ Efficacy very similar at high doses, except for rivastigmine transdermal and possibly extended-release galantamine
- ❖ Adverse effects similar for all drugs, least for donepezil and galantamine, most for oral rivastigmine
- ❖ Cost is (currently) wildly different

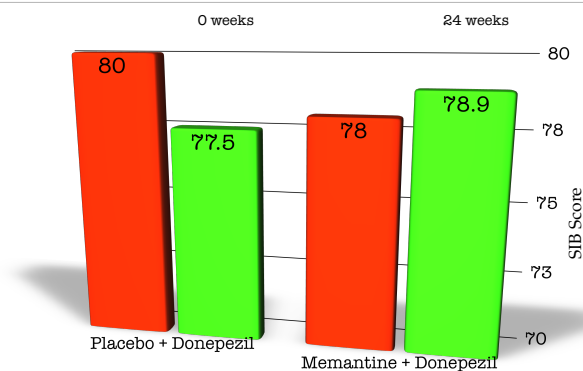
## Memantine (Namenda®)

- ❖ Standard formulation is twice-daily, will become available generically in April 2015
- ❖ Namenda XR® is once-daily
- ❖ Target dose is 10 mg BID (standard), or 28 mg once daily (XR)
- ❖ Approved for moderate or severe AD

## Memantine for Mod-Sev AD: Add-On to Donepezil

- ❖ 404 patients with moderate-severe AD, already on donepezil, with MMSE 5-14
- ❖ Randomized to continue donepezil and add memantine 20 mg/day or continue donepezil with placebo, for 24 weeks
- ❖ Primary efficacy measures: SIB, ADCS-ADL19

## Memantine for Mod-Sev AD: Add-On to Donepezil

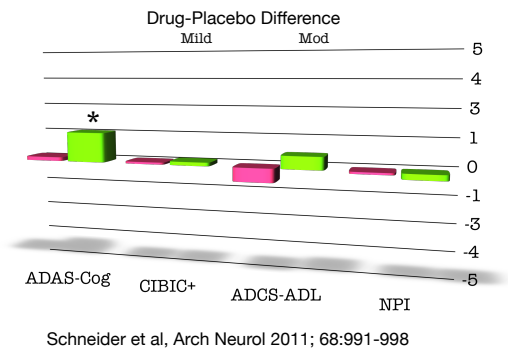


Tariot et al, JAMA 2004; 291:317-324

## Memantine for Mild-to-Moderate AD

- ❖ Schneider et al performed meta-analysis of mild-to-moderate AD trials using memantine
- ❖ 3 trials, total of 431 mild (MMSE 20-23) AD patients and 697 moderate (MMSE 10-19) AD patients

## Memantine for Mild-Mod AD

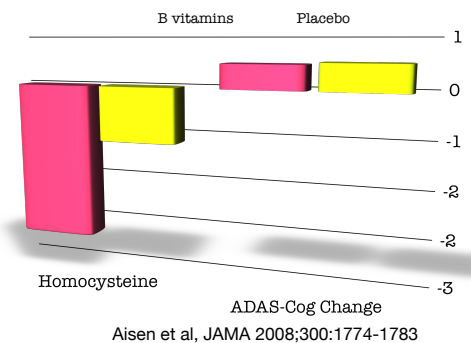


## Memantine Summary

- ❖ May give small additional benefit in moderate-severe dementia
- ❖ Ineffective in mild dementia and MCI
- ❖ No behavioral benefits in any monotherapy study
- ❖ No neuroprotective effect

## B Vitamins for AD

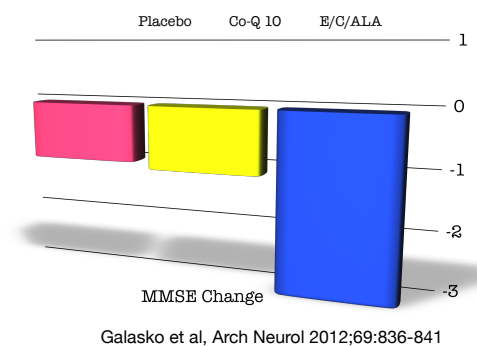
- ❖ 409 patients with AD randomized to receive folate/B6/B12 supplement or placebo for 18 months
- ❖ Main outcome was ADAS-Cog change



## Antioxidant Vitamins for AD

- ❖ 78 AD patients randomized to Vitamin E 800 IU daily/Vitamin C 500 mg daily/alpha-lipoic acid 900 mg daily, or Co-enzyme Q10 400 mg TID, or placebo
- ❖ CSF markers and cognitive scores followed for 16 weeks

## Vit E/C/ALA, Co-Q10 for AD

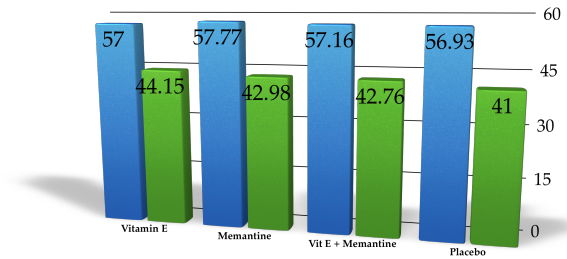


## Vitamin E for AD

- ❖ 613 AD patients randomized to Vitamin E 1000 IU twice daily, 10 mg of memantine twice daily, the combination, or placebo, for four years
- ❖ Main endpoint was ADCS-ADL (a measure of function)

## Vitamin E plus Memantine for AD

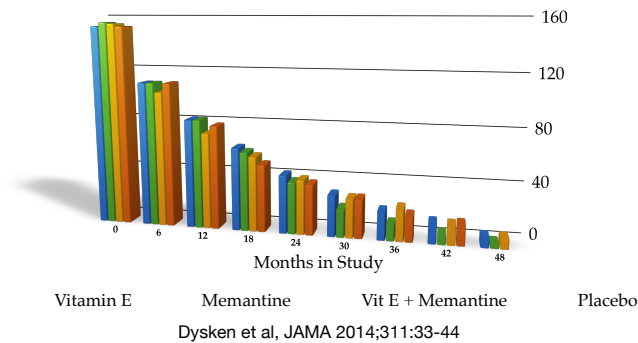
ADCS-ADL Score over 4 Years



Dysken et al, JAMA 2014;311:33-44

## Vitamin E plus Memantine for AD

Number of Patients in Study



Dysken et al, JAMA 2014;311:33-44

## Future Treatments for AD?

- ❖ Anti-amyloid treatments: monoclonal antibodies (solenazumab), BACE inhibitors (MK-8931)
- ❖ Anti-tau treatments now being studied (AADvac1)
- ❖ Anti-inflammation drugs
- ❖ 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor antagonist (idalopirdine)
- ❖ Insulin-receptor-mediated treatments now being studied (eg, Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 analogs)

## Behavioral Symptoms

- ❖ Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) refer to non-cognitive symptoms of dementia
- ❖ 95% of persons with dementia will have BPSD at some point during their life
- ❖ More common as dementia progresses
- ❖ Often the cause of significant distress, increased caregiver burden, and may lead directly to institutionalization, greatly increasing cost of care

## What are BPSD?

- ❖ Apathy
- ❖ Depression/anxiety
- ❖ Elation/euphoria, moria
- ❖ Sleep disturbances
- ❖ Psychosis (delusions, hallucinations)
- ❖ Agitation
- ❖ Wandering

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## Drugs Proven Effective for BPSD

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- ❖ None

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## Drugs Often Used for BPSD

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- ❖ Antipsychotics
  - ❖ Risperidone (Risperdal®), haloperidol (Haldol®), olanzapine (Zyprexa®), aripiprazole (Abilify®)
  - ❖ Quetiapine (Seroquel®)
- ❖ Benzodiazepines
  - ❖ Alprazolam (Xanax®), lorazepam (Ativan®), clonazepam (Klonopin®)
- ❖ Antidepressants
  - ❖ Sertraline (Zoloft®), citalopram (Celexa®), escitalopram (Lexapro®)
- ❖ Anticonvulsants
  - ❖ Divalproex (Depakote®)

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## Nonpharmacological BPSD Management

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- ❖ Environmental modification
- ❖ Sleep hygiene
- ❖ Physical exercise
- ❖ Music therapy
- ❖ Caregiver education

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## Caregiver Approach

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- ❖ Always use calm, kind voice
- ❖ Avoid correction, scolding, argument
- ❖ Practice distraction and redirection
- ❖ Develop patience--if necessary to repetitively answer questions, do so without irritation
- ❖ Give instructions clearly, one step at a time
- ❖ Always explain before doing things like dressing, undressing, etc.

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## When to Resort to Medications

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- ❖ Behavior is dangerous, distressing  
AND
- ❖ Behavior does not respond to non-pharmacological management  
OR
- ❖ Behavior requires emergency treatment to allow for more time to evaluate

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## Using Medications for BPSD

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- ❖ Pick the most problematic behavior
- ❖ Select a drug to address this symptom
- ❖ Start at a low dose
- ❖ Titrate the dose upward until the symptom is controlled or side effects occur
- ❖ If BPSD respond, then consider withdrawal of drug after a few months