

AD Early Intervention

Early Detection When You Are Healthy

“Timeliness of Intervention is Likely to Have Important Impacts on Costs and Outcomes.”



According to a recent study in the Journal Neurology, screening, diagnostic and prescribing should aim to reflect the optimal cognitive stage for cost-effective intervention, which is generally several years prior to current standard practice.

This is important for many

reasons: 1st Patients are younger and healthier in the early stages of disease, thus more treatable. 2nd, MRI studies show that the longer the disease has to manifest, the more irreversible brain atrophy has occurred. 3rd, patients with less disease are more able to take care of themselves and comply

Early Treatment

The benefits to early detection thus treatment are dramatic according to a new study.

Symptomatic treatment (those that do not modify the disease but provide some relief to symptoms) provides maximum functional and economic benefit to patients if applied 8 years earlier than is the standard today.

For most disease-modifying interventions (one that halted cognitive decline for 1 years) maximum benefit, both financial and functional is achieved 2 years before standard diagnosis today.

The maximum net financial benefit of the disease modifying intervention is 15 times larger than that of the symptomatic treatment.

Families and the healthcare system can save billions of dollar through proactive early detection.



Study Say Early Intervention Must Become the Norm

For both symptomatic and disease-modifying interventions, timing is crucial in determining the economic benefits of a treatment, even leaving aside the issue of treatment efficacy. Early intervention is clearly indicated for current symptomatic treatments, which are likely to be most cost-effective when applied as early as it is possible to



diagnose AD. For a disease-modifying intervention, maximal cost-effectiveness would be achieved by intervening early enough to anticipate the point at which cognition begins a rapid decline. Taken together, these results suggest that cost-effective early detection and intervention should be an achievable goal in earlier stages of AD.