

Exploring Patient and Care Partner Experiences on the Integration of Advanced Biomarkers in Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosis



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Key Takeaway: Biomarkers provide valued insight for patients and care partners regarding AD diagnosis and health status, facilitating self-management and care planning. As the use of biomarkers expands, there is a need to prioritize in-person disclosure, structured follow-up, and integrated care.

INTRODUCTION

- **Biomarker testing** enables early detection of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles, supporting a **biological diagnosis** of Alzheimer's Disease (AD).^{1,2}
- **Imaging and fluid biomarkers** increase **physician confidence** in AD diagnosis^{3,4} and improve **patients' ability to manage symptoms** and **health outcomes**.⁵
- However, biomarkers remain **underutilized** due to limited availability of testing.

To support implementation, there is a need to understand **patient and care partner experiences** with the biomarker diagnostic process.

METHODS

- This qualitative study was nested within the **BioMIND observational clinical trial** (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT06843109).
 - Aim: To assess the **feasibility, impact, and utility of biomarker diagnostics** (e.g., blood tests, lumbar puncture, PET scans) in routine clinical practice.
- A total of **26 semi-structured interviews** were conducted with **25 patients** and **14 care partners** following receipt of diagnostic results.
- Interviews (15-60 minutes) were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim.
- Data were analyzed using **thematic analysis with emergent coding**.⁶

Sample Interview Questions

- What did the **diagnosis process** look like?
- What **worked well** throughout the intervention?
- How could this process be **improved**?



RESULTS

Biological Diagnosis: A Pipeline to Patient Empowerment

To get a **definitive** answer that no, you don't have [AD]...**made me understand** how much anxiety and depression affect my memory. (Patient A028)

Navigational Barriers and Facilitators to Biological Diagnosis

I'm also being treated for **other medical problems**, so I was **fitting [the appointments] all together** and that was difficult. (Patient B049)

Communication as the Foundation of Information Sharing

It's **a lot to absorb**...I think with it being done through a phone call and not in-person that...changed the dynamic. (Care Partner B033)

Continuity of Care: Supporting Patients Post-Diagnosis

But there's **no follow up appointment**. There's nothing, you know, it's like you're **left out in the cold**. That's how I feel. (Care Partner A030)

CONCLUSIONS



Biomarker testing increased **patient and care partner confidence** in diagnosis and **facilitated care planning** and **self-management**.



Streamlining appointments and **integrating care** is needed to reduce navigation and scheduling barriers, particularly for patients with multimorbidity.



Patients and care partners often felt **overwhelmed by the volume of information provided**; **follow-up appointments** are required.



Future directions involve integrating patient and care partner feedback to support **patient-centred pathways** and **optimize biomarker implementation**.