

Supporting the Safety of Amyloid Targeting Therapy for Early Alzheimer's Disease in the VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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Educational materials for patients, care partners, and clinicians supported the safe implementation of lecanemab and donanemab for Alzheimer's disease in the VA.

Background

While amyloid targeting therapies (ATT) for Alzheimer's disease (AD), including lecanemab and donanemab, have changed the treatment landscape, less is known about patient supports with these health services

Objectives

To identify educational gaps and develop patient, care partner, and clinician-specific materials supporting informed decision-making about ATT for Alzheimer's disease

Methods

Educational Material Development

- Iteratively developed patient, care partner, and clinician-facing educational materials
- Geriatric, neurology, and geriatric psychiatry content experts recommended priority materials ensure relevancy
- Materials were trialed in a single clinic and distributed nationally to clinicians
- Materials were updated, as new clinical information became available

Feedback on Materials

- Multisite Clinician Survey
 - We conducted a multisite survey of clinician stakeholders (N=44)
- Patient/Care Partner Survey
 - As part of a quality assurance initiative, we conducted a 12-item Veteran and care partner survey (N=4 Veterans, N=4 care partners)

Accessibility

- Accessibility remediation and validation was conducted using CommonLook Word and CommonLook PDF
- Evaluated for compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Verified for compliance with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 32000-1:2008 and WCAG 2.2 Level AA standards

Patient Guide: General Information

Amyloid Targeting Therapy For Alzheimer's Disease

What are lecanemab (LEQEMBI®) and donanemab (Kisunla®)?

These medications are amyloid targeting therapies and are used to treat Alzheimer's disease. They are intended for patients with mild to moderate cognitive impairment (memory and thinking problems) caused by Alzheimer's disease.

How do these medications work?

They reduce amyloid plaques or proteins found in the brain. Amyloid plaques make it harder for the brain to work the way it should.

How are they given?

- Intravenously (IV) over 90 minutes to 2 hours
- Lecanemab
- Donanemab

What are the risks?

- Both medications can cause side effects, including brain swelling and bleeding, which can be serious.
- Lecanemab
- Donanemab

What are the benefits?

- Infusion-related side effects
- Brain bleeding
- Brain swelling
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Fall: 10%

What are the costs?

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