

The reasons for Alzheimer's disease patients not receiving anti-A β therapy

Abstract No.
aaic2026.e6019b8

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Background

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Anti-A β monoclonal antibodies are currently the only approved disease-modifying therapy for Alzheimer's disease (AD). Since the launch of Lecanemab and Donanemab in China in 2024, only a very small number of AD patients have received anti-A β therapy, but the reasons remain unclear.

Results

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A total of 348 questionnaires were collected, of which 342 were valid. Among them, 122 cases (35.7%) received anti-A β therapy, while 220 cases (64.3%) did not. Among 186 cases who met the criteria for anti-A β therapy, 82 (44.1%) did not receive the treatment. The reasons for not receiving the therapy included high cost of drugs (57 cases, 69.5%), concern about adverse reactions (33 cases, 40.2%), and concern about lack of efficacy (32 cases, 39.0%) in order. Multivariate analysis showed that the factors associated with not receiving anti-A β therapy included caregivers be children (OR=2.772, 95%CI: 1.329-5.782), disease duration >2years (OR=2.637, 95%CI: 1.584-4.390), annual family income <100,000 RMB (OR=2.400, 95%CI: 1.168-4.933), and not familiar with the drug's mechanism (OR=4.607, 95%CI: 2.694-7.880).

Methods

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From December 21, 2025, to January 20, 2026, a questionnaire survey was conducted on the caregivers of AD patients via WeChat Wenjuan.

Conclusion

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The reasons for AD patients not receiving anti-A β therapy included high cost of drugs, concern about adverse reactions and efficacy in order. Patients who cared by children, had long disease duration, with lower income, and lack of knowledge about the drugs are more unlikely to receiving anti-A β therapy.