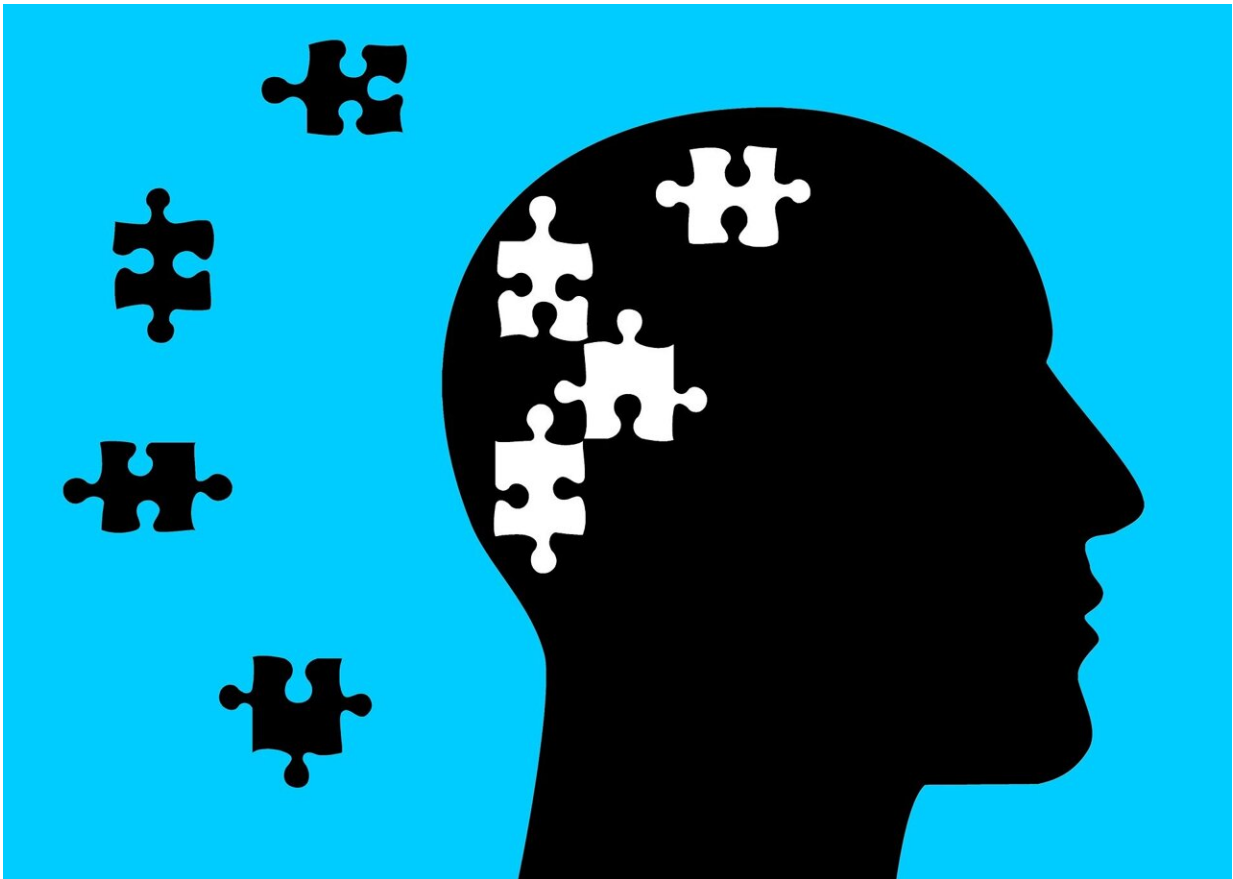


Expert offers perspective on experimental Alzheimer's disease drug

October 4 2022, by Deb Balzer



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According to drugmakers Eisai and Biogen, a Phase 3 clinical study on a potential new Alzheimer's disease drug shows promise. The study

findings show that the drug, lecanemab, reduced clinical decline of people with Alzheimer's disease by 27% compared with a placebo after 18 months of treatment.

"This is very good news for Alzheimer's disease patients and their families," says Dr. Ronald Petersen, a neurologist and director of Mayo Clinic's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. "While this is not a cure for the disease, it represents a step in the right direction by slowing cognitive decline."

A monoclonal antibody, lecanemab shows promise in removing [amyloid plaques](#) from the brain. Plaques are one of the defining features of Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Petersen adds: "These data suggest that we can intervene on the amyloid process and slow it down. Now, we need to move earlier in the disease process to treat people who are amyloid positive but clinically normal."

The study included 1,795 participants with early Alzheimer's disease in Japan, the U.S., Europe and China.

The drugmaker has requested accelerated approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The study results will be presented at the Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Congress (CTAD) in November and is expected to be published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

"We look forward to additional data from this study and other studies investigating disease-modifying therapies that will attack the underlying disease process itself," says Dr. Petersen.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurological disorder affecting about 6 million people in the U.S and over 55 million people worldwide.

This number is projected to rise to 139 million globally by 2050. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia.

- Brain changes associated with Alzheimer's disease can lead to growing trouble with:
 - Memory
 - Thinking and reasoning
 - Making judgments and decisions
 - Planning and performing familiar tasks
 - Changes in personality and behavior

There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease. Medication may temporarily improve or slow progression of symptoms.

On average, people with Alzheimer's live between three to 11 years after diagnosis, though some may survive for more than 20 years.

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