

Brain Matters

Working To Create A
World Without Alzheimer's

April 21, 2011

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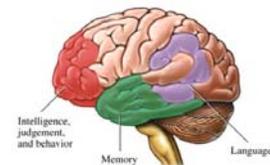
Memantine Not Found Beneficial For Early Disease



Memantine, a drug frequently prescribed to treat people with mild Alzheimer's disease, does not appear to be an effective therapy for many of these patients, [according to a new study.](#)

The results show the drug, memantine, is no better than

New Diagnostic Criteria For Alzheimer's: First In 27 Years



For the first time in 27 years, [new criteria and guidelines](#) for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease have been published by three expert workgroups spearheaded by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Here in Texas, 340,000 are currently living with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Texas ranks 3rd in the number of Alzheimer's disease deaths per year.

"These criteria will move us closer to the development of disease modifying drugs for early Alzheimer's," said Kristen Griffith, Educator for the Houston & Southeast Texas Chapter.

[More about the new guidelines.](#)

Upcoming Professional Conferences In May/June



- [Schlichting Professional Conference - Houston](#) - United Way Community Resource Center
50 Waugh Dr. Houston, TX, **May 6.**
- [East Texas Professional Conference](#) Angelina College

a dummy pill when it comes to ameliorating disease symptoms, including the decline of mental abilities, the researchers say. There is [also meager evidence that the drug works](#) for patients with moderate [Alzheimer's](#), the researchers say.

Memantine is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat patients with moderate and severe Alzheimer's. However, physicians often prescribe it off-label to those with mild forms of the disease. About 19 percent of U.S. patients with mild Alzheimer's disease take the drug, the researchers say. The drug is intended to [improve cognitive functions](#) and make it easier for patients to perform daily activities.

Quick Links

- [Our Website](#)
- [Get Involved - Volunteer Program & Event Calendar](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Contact our Chapter:
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Leave A Legacy

Consider leaving a legacy of support by making a planned gift to the Alzheimer's Association. [Planned gifts](#) allow you to combine your charitable giving goals with your estate and financial planning goals. Your gift will provide lasting benefits through our Alzheimer research program and community care and support programs.

Hudgins Hall Auditorium
3500 S. First St., Lufkin, TX, **May 13.**

- [Brazos Valley Professional Conference](#) Texas A&M Health Science Center, Bryan Campus
Health Professional Education Building
8447 Highway 47, Bryan, TX, **May 20**
- **Beaumont Professional Series**
 - Christus Outpatient Pavilion
755 North 11th Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
 - [Early Disease: Diagnosis/Treatment](#) - **June 10**
 - [Responding To Difficult Diagnosis](#) - **June 24**
 - [End of Life Issues](#) - **July 15**
- *All programs offer CEUs. Call our HELPLine at 800 272 3900 for details and additional information.*

A Round To Remember - Golf in Southeast Texas

Come out to Idylwild Golf Club on May 20 - hit a few bogies, and raise fun & funds for Alzheimer's. The Round to Remember Golf Classic raises awareness and supports the Beaumont office of the Alzheimer's Association. Participants enjoy 18 holes of golf with cart, complimentary gift bag, lunch /program and opportunity to win lots of prizes!

[Learn more and sign up to play!](#)



Football Supports Chapter

Blondes vs. Brunettes is a volunteer-driven event that raises awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Association. College Station held it's first BVB in April and raised \$5700, thanks to the incredible efforts of the Texas A&M Pre-Med Society! [Click to see fotos of their game.](#)



Meanwhile, BVB Houston is closing in on their big game on June 11th. You can still sign up to play or coach by May 1st [by clicking here.](#)

For more information please contact jessica.abadserpas@alz.org.

Still Time to Register Advocacy Forum in DC

With newly elected leaders in Congress, it is more important than ever that our messages about the Alzheimer epidemic get heard. We need passionate Alzheimer advocates to come to Washington, D.C., to lend their VOICE to the cause.



[Join us in our nation's capital May 15-17, 2011](#), for the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum - become educated about the issues, learn new skills, network with fellow advocates and take our message directly to members of Congress to fight for our legislative agenda.

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