

IDEAS Study

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION & CENTERS FOR MEDICARE SERVICES



THE PURPOSE

To identify whether an experimental PET scan result can assist physicians in better diagnosis and management of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias

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Name of Project | Imaging Dementia – Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS)

Study Sponsor | American College of Radiology

Total number of participants to-date | 10,000+

Timeline of the project | 3 years

Target population | Individuals with mild cognitive impairment

WHAT DID PEOPLE DO IF THEY WERE INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT?

Participants with an unclear diagnosis agreed to doctor and lab visits to initiate, complete, and interpret an amyloid imaging specific PET scan in order to inform their diagnosis and treatment plan. This occurred at 30 and 90 days upon entrance into the study.

WHAT DID PARTICIPANTS TAKE AWAY FROM THEIR INVOLVEMENT?

Participants were able to take advantage of a diagnostic imaging tool at a lower cost and understand more about what different types of dementia are based on what the PET scan showed was going on in their brain. They were also able to have a conversation with their physician about what different treatment and management possibilities were as a result of their scan.

WHAT ISSUES OR FINDINGS WERE DISCOVERED DURING THE PROJECT?

Finding: Physicians found the amyloid scan very helpful in diagnosis and managing patients.

Application for senior living professionals: There are always new diagnostic tools under development for the populations that are served by our communities. Families and customers are looking to take advantage of the latest information that can help diagnose their loved one correctly, and this could result in tangible changes in both medication and disease management.

WHAT ARE FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS?

As a result of the success of this study, it is likely that the Centers for Medicare Services will consider adding an insurance billing code for the PET scan. In addition, the study has many offshoot initiatives that involve genetics, interviews with family members, and brain registries that may be of interest to future partners.



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