Lecanemab: Understanding the New Drug

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The Evolution of Alzheimer’s Disease

Lumbar Puncture

PET Scan

Lecanemab

15-20 Years

Plaques

No Plaques

Jack et al., Neurology 2016
The Effect of Lecanemab

**Amyloid Burden**

Less amyloid

- Adjusted Mean Change from Baseline (centiloids)

- P<0.001 at 18 mo

**Overall Function**

Worsening

- Adjusted Mean Change from Baseline

- P<0.001 at 18 mo
Potential Risks of Lecanemab

- Infusion-related reaction (~26%)
- Excessive brain inflammation (~3%)
- Significant brain bleeding (~0.6%)
Who Is Eligible?

**Must Be/Have:**

- Age 50-90
- Amyloid in brain
- Mild symptoms
- Recent clinical assessment (w/in 3 mo)
- Recent MRI scan (w/in 1 yr), ability to receive more scans
- Informant/care partner/family available to attend follow-up visits

**Cannot Be/Have:**

- Evidence of significant strokes or bleeding in the brain
- Seizure within the past 12 months
- Unstable severe psychiatric illness in past 6 months
- A bleeding disorder
- Severe uncontrolled diabetes or hypertension
- Significant heart problems (excluding atrial fibrillation)
- Severe kidney problems
- Alcohol and substance abuse problems in the past year
- Undergoing active cancer treatment
- Recent severe illness (e.g., pneumonia)
- Be immunosuppressed
Special Considerations

- Blood thinners (anticoagulation)
- APOE4 genotype
  - Different risk/benefit calculation?
- Cost and Access
  - Insurance coverage not yet available
- Infusion every 2 weeks
- Duration of Treatment?
  - Maintenance treatment?
- Subjects currently enrolled in clinical trials?