



Diagnostic Tests for Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease

Tests that may be conducted in the diagnostic process could include:

- * Complete medical history
- * A physical examination, which could include blood pressure, pulse and nutritional status
- * Laboratory tests, such as blood and urine tests
- * A mental status evaluation that assesses sense of time and place, ability to remember and recall, understand and communicate, and the ability to do simple math problems
- * A series of evaluations that test memory, reasoning, visual-motor coordination, and language skills
- * Brain imaging scans such as a CT scan or MRI

Please do not minimize the symptoms being experienced and do not allow your physician to dismiss the symptoms as depression, without conducting the tests as mentioned above. Do not be afraid to seek out other physicians that will pay attention to the symptoms that are being experienced.

As difficult as it can be to receive a diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's disease, there are advantages in obtaining the diagnosis as early as possible in the disease process

- * Time to make choices that maximize quality of life
- * Lessened anxieties about unknown problems
- * Better chance of benefitting from treatment
- * More time to plan for the future
- * Development of care plan to assist all involved with understanding the disease and continuing to live life to the fullest
- * Becoming involved in activities and opportunities within your community

While there is no treatment that cures early onset Alzheimer's disease, there are prescription drugs on the market that may delay symptoms and progression of the disease. Consult with your treating physician about the options available.