

Lecanemab Frequently Asked Questions



What is the AHEAD study drug, lecanemab?

Lecanemab recently received FDA accelerated approval for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in patients with mild cognitive impairment or the mild dementia stage of Alzheimer's disease. Lecanemab is currently not approved in the earlier or later stages of Alzheimer's disease. In the AHEAD Study, we are testing whether lecanemab can help delay or prevent the onset of memory symptoms in people at risk for cognitive decline due to Alzheimer's disease. It is administered through IV infusion with the dose schedule of lecanemab determined based on a participant's level of amyloid plaque found in the brain.

What is amyloid?

Amyloid is a protein that builds up in the brains of people who have memory problems due to Alzheimer's disease. Researchers have now found that amyloid build-up begins many years before symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are apparent. While not all people with amyloid build-up in their brain will develop memory problems, researchers know that the people with brain amyloid are at a higher risk for developing symptoms of the disease.

How does lecanemab work?

We are investigating lecanemab to understand if it binds to and helps clear amyloid build-up in the brain. Researchers believe treating amyloid early, before a person experiences memory problems, may reduce the risk of memory decline later.

Are there any side effects or risks involved with lecanemab?

Every medication has potential risks. The most common side effects associated with lecanemab are infusion-site reactions (redness or swelling where the IV is inserted) and something called Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities, or ARIA, which is brain swelling or small brain bleeds visible on an MRI brain scan. Most often, ARIA clears up on its own and no treatment is required, but additional MRI follow-up may be recommended. In a small number of cases, people may experience headache, dizziness, or confusion due to ARIA. In very rare cases, people may experience more serious symptoms or larger areas of brain bleeding due to ARIA.

How is participant safety monitored?

Expert clinician researchers at all participating AHEAD Study research locations closely monitor participant safety by conducting regular physical examinations, blood and urine tests, and routine MRI brain scans. In addition to the AHEAD Study research team, an independent safety board monitors participant safety very closely.

What do I do if I have questions or concerns?

The AHEAD Study has 70+ locations across the United States and Canada. For any questions or concerns about the AHEAD Study and lecanemab, please contact the study team at the [AHEAD research center closest to you](#).