Assessing Alzheimer’s

Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive brain disorder that destroys brain cells, eventually leading to death. There is no cure.1

## Costs

- The approximate lifetime cost of caring for someone with Alzheimer’s is $341,840, with 70% of these costs falling onto families.1

## Treatment and research

### Number of Alzheimer’s and dementia drugs that are currently on the market.

Current drugs can’t slow the progression of Alzheimer’s and at best can only moderately relieve symptoms.3 With 99.6% of clinical trials failing, companies are shifting research spending to other diseases.4

### Current treatment in clinical trials

We still don’t fully understand the cause of Alzheimer’s. While government funding for basic research has tripled in five years, other diseases still receive significantly more money.5

### Private sector participation

The Dementia Discovery Fund, a venture capital fund, recently raised $350 million dollars to fund Alzheimer’s research. Investors include 7 leading pharma companies, AARP, Bill Gates, the NFL Players Association, and UnitedHealth Group.

Despite the current lack of an effective treatment, there is cause for optimism around Alzheimer’s Disease as today’s breakthroughs in the lab become the treatments of tomorrow. As always, OptumRx will closely monitors and evaluates the drug development landscape.

## References

2. Alzheimer’s Impact Movement Fact Sheet. March, 2018 [PDF]
5. Alzheimer’s Impact Movement. [https://alzimpact.org/issues/research]