



Communication Approaches for Patients and Care Partners When Initiating Amyloid Targeting Therapies

A communication support framework to guide interactions with patients and care partners on expectations for treatment and monitoring after initiation of amyloid targeting therapies.



Disclaimer

This resource was developed by Eli Lilly and Company. This work was inspired by established peer reviewed research and insights from experts in Alzheimer's disease based on their perspectives and opinions as well as from data on file from multiple Lilly advisory boards.

The communication style presented is a suggestion of technique and not to be portrayed as conclusive guidance.

Please note that this is a relatively new clinical topic. The science and the clinical opportunities evolve rapidly, and so does the need to continue evolving the communication – we are providing what is currently acknowledged as best practices. However, this is likely to change as the clinical landscape advances.



Table of Contents

1

Introduction

2

Communicating Treatment Options with Patients in early Alzheimer's Disease

3

Communicating Amyloid Targeting Therapy

4

Educational support

5

Additional considerations






Section 1

Introduction





Background

 Amyloid targeting therapies (ATTs) are novel therapeutics with elements that require comprehensive communication so patients and their care partners achieve a full understanding of their treatment.

Educational Needs



1

Support on stimulating and ensuring understanding of the information provided.¹



2

Support on communicating uncertainty.¹



3

Careful communication and management of expectations.²

Considerations



4

Gaining more clinical experience does not inevitably improve communication skills.³



5

Training courses significantly improve key communication skills.³

1. Hendriksen H et al. *Alzheimers Res Ther.* 2023;15(1):131. 2. Belder CRS et al. *Lancet Neurol.* 2023;22(9):782-3. 3. Fallowfield L et al. *Lancet.* 2002;359(9307):650-6.





Background

Impact of Communication Training

To provide healthcare providers with **tools for clear and helpful communication**

To **increase confidence in a new, relatively complex clinical topic** with evolving needs in communication

To help patients and care partners **understand the treatment options**, and to make informed decisions about their care

To facilitate patient **access to pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment**

Lilly



Purpose

Goal

- To increase healthcare providers' confidence in communicating about ATTs as a treatment option with patients and their care partners.

Objectives

- To present methods for clear communication when introducing ATTs as a treatment option in patients with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease.
- To provide patient-centered explanations of ATT, mechanism of action, benefits, risks, and administration.
- To obtain best practice recommendations for situational guidance (cognitive impairment, treatment, care partner involvement, managing uncertainty).

Limitations

- This slide deck encompasses techniques for communicating treatment options after Alzheimer's disease diagnosis and does not provide insight on guidance after treatment initiation.

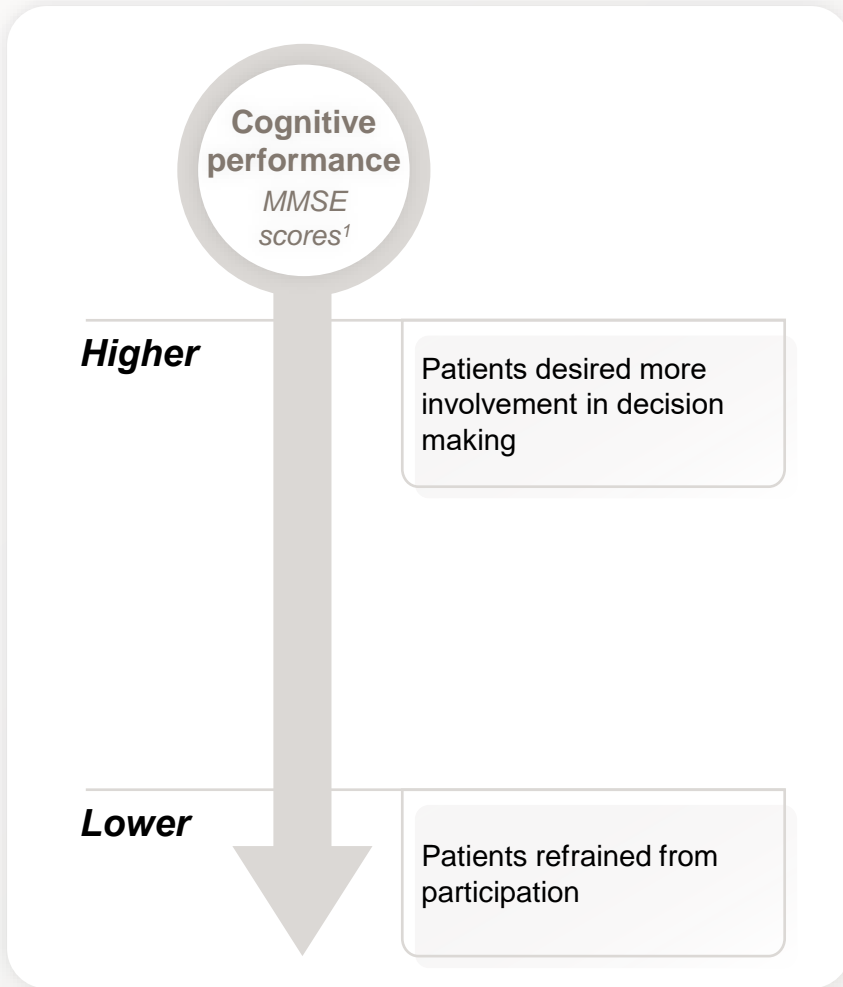


Section 2

**Communicating Treatment Options
with Patients in early Alzheimer's
Disease**



Conversations With Patients With Cognitive Impairment



DECISION-MAKING PREFERENCES FROM A PATIENT PERSPECTIVE¹

Patients	<i>Patients prefer greater input on social decisions</i>
Physicians	<i>Patients prefer for clinician guidance on medication decisions</i>
Care partner	<i>Patients prefer minimal input from care partners on social or medical decisions</i>

Patients with early symptomatic AD²⁻⁴

- are able to comprehend and participate in discussions regarding potential benefits, risks, and care requirements
- have difficulty utilizing feedback to make optimal decisions under risky situations
- have compromised decision-making ability in ambiguous situations

AD: Alzheimer's disease; MMSE: Mini-Mental State Examination

1. Hamann J et al. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2011;59(11):2045-52. 2. Cummings J et al. J Prev Alzheimers Dis. 2023;10(3):362-77. 3. Zhang Y et al. J Alzheimers Dis. 2022;87(3):1215-27. 4. Sun T et al. Front Psychiatry. 2020;18;11:218.



Conversations With Patients Experiencing Cognitive Impairment

Different types of patients require different types of communication

APOE carrier

Patients who are APOE carriers require specific counseling and discussions.

Just needs info

Neither overly proactive nor avoidant and seek only to understand. *The most common type.*

Keen to participate

Proactive, excited about new treatments, often due to family history.

Controlling care partner

Patients with care partners who wish to have greater direction and influence over treatment.

Apprehensive

Unwilling or scared to accept diagnosis.

Conversations With Patients Experiencing Cognitive Impairment

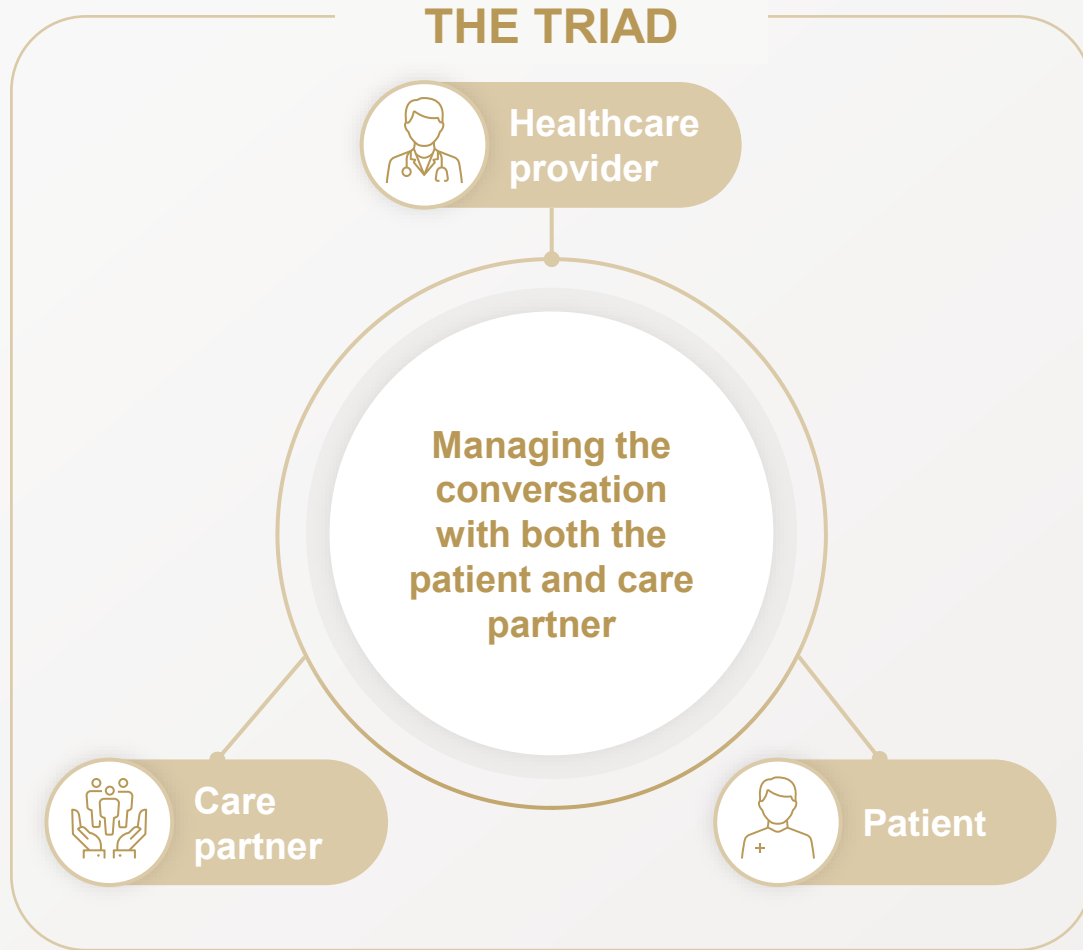


AE: Adverse Event

1. Cummings J et al. J Prev Alzheimers Dis. 2023;10(3):362-77. 2. Berkey FJ et al. Am Fam Physician. 2018;98(2):99-104.



Considerations for Having a Treatment Discussion



The presence of a third person, creating a triad instead of the standard dyad, may **impact the relationship between physician and patient:**

Positively

- Enhancing communication
- Superior comprehension and involvement

Negatively

- Limiting patients' involvement and assertiveness
- Exclusion from the care discussions

This triad may have **distinguishing characteristics** when the patient is **elderly with cognitive impairment.**

1. Karnieli-Miller O et al. Patient Educ Couns. 2012;88(3):381-90.

Considerations for Having a Treatment Discussion

THE TRIAD

CONSIDERATIONS

Manage diverse patient and care partner needs effectively.^{1,2}

Encounters may turn into dominant-marginalized dyadic conversations.¹

Infantilization of the patient.¹

GENERAL ADVICE

Set clear intentions in terms of **roles and conduct** (who talks, about what, when) while emphasizing the importance of each member of the triad being heard.^{1,2}

Articulate the goal of ensuring patient participation in care decisions; despite challenges, exclusion should be avoided.^{1,2}

Be concrete with treatment options and recommendations, and **direct the conversation** to the patient, preferably accompanied by hand-outs.²

1. Karnieli-Miller O et al. Patient Educ Couns. 2012;88(3):381-90. 2. Stubbe DE. Focus (Am Psychiatr Publ). 2017;15(1):65-7.



Considerations for Having a Treatment Discussion

THE TRIAD

CONSIDERATIONS

Confusion about speaking roles signaled through verbal and nonverbal cues.¹

Initial focus on the patient, then shift to the care partner.¹

Uncertainty around care partner's role, interruptive vs. essential involvement.¹

GENERAL ADVICE

Understand, acknowledge, and give **time for the shift of the companion to also becoming the care partner** – this is typically not a 'switch' done in one visit.¹

Talk separately with care partners to feel comfortable speaking openly about their worries and with the patient for satisfactory conversation and exploration of feelings.²


Adopt **cross-culturally sensitive communication practices** and increase access to private and community education.^{3,4}

1. Karnieli-Miller O et al. Patient Educ Couns. 2012;88(3):381-90. 2. Lecouturier J et al. BMC Health Serv Res. 2008;8:95. 3. Stubbe DE. Focus (Am Psychiatr Publ). 2017;15(1):65-7. 4. Mahoney DF et al. Gerontologist.2005;45(6):783-92.



Shared Decision-Making

WHAT IS IT?

 *Shared decision-making is a collaborative process in which the healthcare provider works together with the patient to reach a joint decision about care and may be a method that is currently used in your clinical practice.¹*

BENEFITS

Improve patient satisfaction²

Improve treatment adherence²

Improve clinical outcomes²


 **Shared decision making is also preferred by patients with dementia, cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease.^{3,4}**

1. NICE guideline. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng197/resources/shared-decision-making-pdf-66142087186885> 17 June 2021 [Accessed April 22, 2024]. 2. Dooley J et al. Br J Psychiatry. 2019;214(4):213-7. 3. Dooley J et al. Int Psychogeriatr. 2015;27(8):1277-1300. 4. Mattos MK et al. Dementia (London) 2023;22(4):875-909.



Shared Decision-Making

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATION

 It is important to consider **how to** discuss treatment recommendations.

TIP Using assertions to initiate medication discussions (*see below*) may facilitate a more sensitive transition.

Treatment recommendations can be made with different **levels of authority** indicating **different degrees of autonomy** for patients.

- Pronouncements** No choice – ‘I will start you on a medication’
- Proposals** Invited to endorse or collaborate with idea – ‘How about trying a medication?’
- Suggestions** Medication is endorsed but patient is given the choice – ‘Would you like to try a medication?’
- Offers** Willingness to prescribe but no active endorsement of medication – ‘I can prescribe a medication’
- Assertions** State the fact that medication exists without endorsement or explicit recommendation – ‘There is a medication’

1. Dooley J et al. Br J Psychiatry. 2019;214(4):213-7.



Shared Decision-Making

PATIENT RESPONSES

Patients can respond with different **degrees of acceptance, passive or active resistance**. Considering that disagreement is socially complicated, especially in authority situations, disagreement most often takes the form of passive resistance.

Acceptance Quick positive acceptance – ‘I’d like to have that’

Passive resistance Minimal verbal or non-verbal acknowledgment – ‘mhm’ or nodding, or no response

Active resistance Questioning the purpose of medication or indicating a desire not to take the medication – ‘I’m not very keen I don’t want to take more tablets’

- Association between recommendation format and patient response
- **Proposals** led to higher acceptance rates, while **suggestions** led to higher resistance rates.
 - **Satisfaction** was **significantly lower** when **pronouncements** were used, compared to other formats.
 - There were **no associations** between **level of cognitive impairment and recommendation format**.

1. Dooley J et al. Br J Psychiatry. 2019;214(4):213-7.





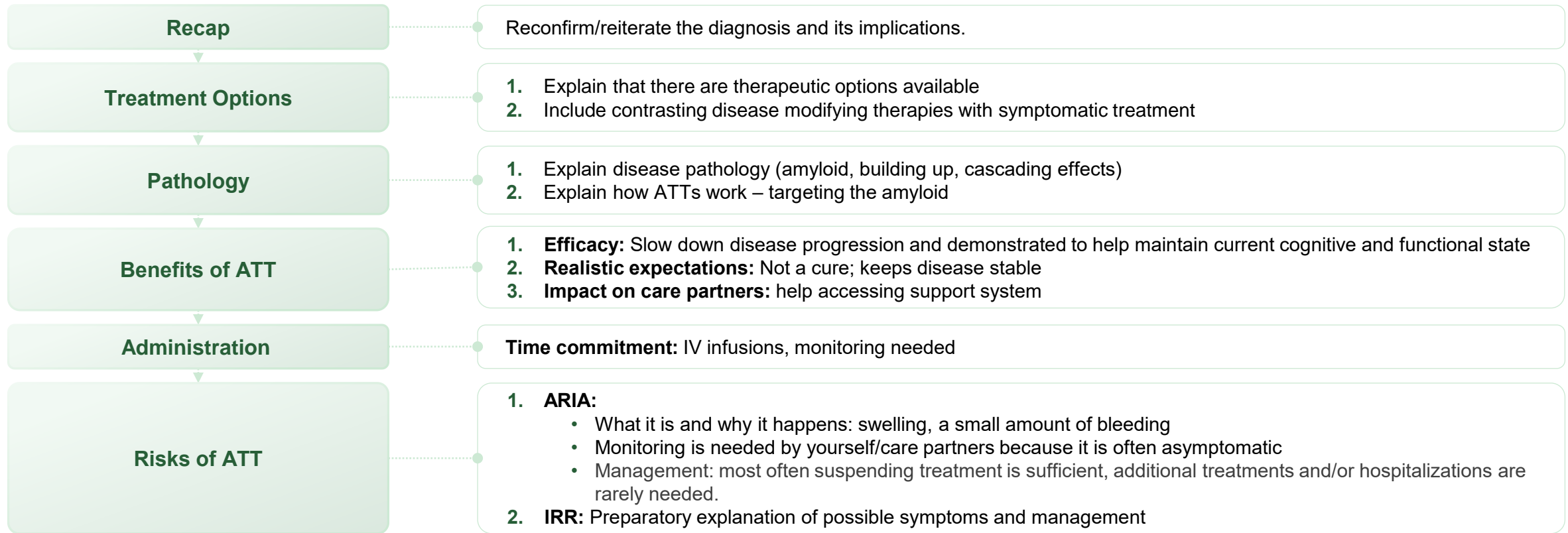
Section 3

*Communicating Amyloid Targeting
Therapy*



Overview of the Suggested Communication Flow

COMMUNICATION FLOW



Establishing the Basis

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

Establish the foundational premises¹

- Quality of life is deserved and valued across the whole age spectrum.
- Patients and families value the preservation of function.
- Memory loss is not a normal part of aging.
- There are treatments available, and patients deserve to know their options.
- Treatment is a time limited opportunity.
- Treatment guidelines should be communicated.

Restate diagnosis/recap¹

- Defining the scope of the conversation and expectations of today's visit
- Reconfirm/reiterate the diagnosis and its implications.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Emphasize the importance of treating early.¹
- Use inclusive, first-person language i.e., 'we', 'our'.¹
- Keep in mind that denial is a common coping mechanism after getting bad news.²
 - Look for verbal and non-verbal cues such as delaying appointments, failing to grasp the implications of their illness, or displaying unrealistic optimism.³

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

"I thought we might just start by recapping what we discussed last time and then having a think about what our options are, and particularly about treatment options."

"We now have treatments, and those treatments are available and effective when used early. So being timely in making this diagnosis properly is important."

"Memory impairment, memory disorders, and memory loss are not a normal part of aging; this is something that we all have to remember. In the diagnosis of memory disorders, it's very important to make a precise and accurate diagnosis, because for some of our memory disorders, there are now treatments available."

1. Data on file. 2. Storstein A. Acta Neurol Scand Suppl. 2011;(191):5-11. 3. Travis AC et al. Am. J. Gastroenterol. 2011;106(6):1028-30.



Treatment Options

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Use an assertion, introducing neutrally that there are new therapeutic options available.^{1,2}
- Explain the difference between symptomatic treatment if the patient is already using it.^{1,3}
- Mention that there are “‘brain health’ lifestyle modifications available as complement.”¹

CONSIDERATIONS

- Assertions relieve the patient from immediate decision-making pressure, easing the transition to treatment discussions.²
- Since many patients with early AD are already on symptomatic treatment, they are likely to wonder about the distinction of this new treatment.¹
- DMT and symptomatic treatments should not be framed as ‘either/or’ but explained as a combination complementing each other.¹

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“Nowadays we have a treatment we can start in order to slow down the progression of the accumulation of amyloid in the brain.”

“Now, we do have some new treatments that are available in addition to the medication that you’re already on. And I think it’s important for us to discuss some of your options.”

*“The symptomatic medication that you’re on right now helps your brain cells communicate with each other a little bit better, but it really doesn’t do much as far as the damage that’s occurring to your brain.
Some of the new medications that have become available attack the illness itself by minimizing some of the damage that’s occurring to the brain.”*

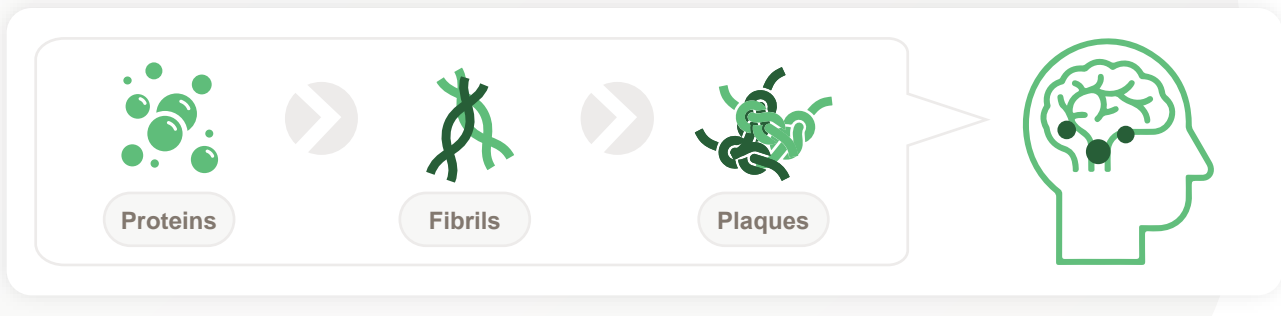
Pathology & Mechanism of Action

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Explain disease pathology – introduce the term amyloid; explain that this protein is building up and has cascading effects.
- Explain how ATTs work – removing/reducing amyloid.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Talk about the treatment in third-person instead of directed, i.e., ‘the brain’ instead of ‘your brain’.
- Use hedging language, i.e., ‘may be able’, ‘perhaps’, ‘a chance’.
- Use of imagery or metaphors for amyloid plaques, i.e., ‘gunk’, ‘blocks’.
- Visual aids (like the image below) can be used to explain the disease pathology, i.e., amyloid build up.



SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“There are soluble proteins that may clump together to form insoluble fibrils and finally accumulate in the brain as plaques i.e., ‘Gunk’. This gunk can in turn damage and destroy brain cells.”

“There are medications that target these amyloid deposits ‘gunk’ and help in removing or reducing their deposition in the brain.”

“We suspect that amyloid is involved in a cascade that leads to brain cell death and damage. By removing that amyloid from the brain, we can perhaps minimize some of that damage and help slow the disease progression.”

Benefits & Efficacy

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Emphasize slowing down disease progression and stabilizing the disease state as an efficacy outcome.^{1,2}
- Translate efficacy parameters for clinical meaningfulness.³
- Discuss the implications of not treating.³

CONSIDERATIONS

- Repeat the same message in different ways.¹
- Use clinically meaningful parameters like QoL to explain benefits/efficacy.¹
- Explicitly acknowledge and encourage that this is a valuable goal.¹
- Use health, cognitive, behavioral, and functional status as a measure of treatment success.⁴
- Keep a hopeful tone.¹
- Use metaphors, i.e., ‘put the brakes on’.¹

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“You’re still driving; you’re still working. I want to keep you that way for as long as possible. We now have a treatment given intravenously that targets the underlying brain changes of Alzheimer’s disease, something called amyloid.”

“So, your memory difficulties are mild, and you do most things perfectly well. And the idea is to keep you doing that for a longer period of time. All right?”

“But the hope is that with these new therapies, we may be able to put the brakes on and slow how quickly you lose memory and thinking function. Basically, we’re trying to maintain your quality of life for as long as possible and make sure that you remain who you are and continue to live and enjoy your life as long as possible.”

QoL: Quality of Life

1. Data on file. 2. Sarkisian C et al. Ann Intern Med. 2024;177(2):246-8. 3. Cummings J et al. J Prev Alzheimers Dis. 2023;10(3):362-77. 4. Hampel H et al. Nat Aging. 2022;2(8):692-703.



Realistic Expectations

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Establish realistic expectations: The notion of improvement as the only relevant treatment benefit is unrealistic.^{1,2}
- Emphasize slowing down disease progression and stabilizing the disease state as an efficacy outcome.^{1,2}
- The goal is to maintain quality of life and ‘remain you longer’.¹
- Emphasize that the treatment is not a cure; it will neither stop the disease nor reverse the damage already caused.¹

CONSIDERATIONS

- Reiterate that the stabilization of illness can also be utilized as a measure of efficacy.³
- Switch to directed language instead of objective language, i.e., ‘keep you’, ‘you lose memory’.¹
- Emphasize that patients with Alzheimer’s disease can achieve years of good quality if the symptoms are stabilized.³

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“In terms of the benefits, I think it's important for us to understand that this medication is not a cure. It's not going to turn back the clock and make everything like it was. But what we're looking for is that this medication can slow things down. And what that means is that you can continue doing the things that you want to do for longer.”

“One of the most important objectives we can actually reach is to maintain your activities of daily life as they are today so you can continue doing what you are doing now.”

“I cannot say that your challenges will improve, but a real objective could be to slow down the progression of these disturbances. That is a very important goal to achieve, and we can do that.”

1. Data on file. 2. Sarkisian C et al. Ann Intern Med. 2024;177(2):246-8. 3. Wilkinson D, Deas K. Eur. Neurol. Rev. 2007;1:37-9.



Risks & Safety – ARIA

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Explain what it is and why it happens, include the following pointers:
 - Amyloid removal may sometimes cause damage to blood vessels.¹
 - Removal of amyloid may cause extravasation of fluid and leakage of blood from damaged blood vessels.^{1,2}
 - Leakage of fluid can result in swelling in the brain.^{1,2}

CONSIDERATIONS

- Can be explained in different detail levels¹:
 - Non-technical but detailed, i.e., builds up between brain cells, but also in the walls of blood vessel; when removed, pores open up¹.
 - By targeting and removing proteins in the brain, this can result in damage to blood vessels.
- Use imagery, non-technical words, i.e., ‘open up pores’, ‘leak’, ‘spots of bleeding’.¹

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“Some people on these amyloid clearing medicines will experience something we call ARIA. And this comes about because blood vessels become a little bit leaky, and there can be spots of bleeding or areas of swelling in the brain.”

“The medications target amyloid, this abnormally folded protein. As a result of targeting this protein, it may also target some other areas in the brain.”

“Amyloid likes to build up between brain cells, where we believe it does most of the damage. But unfortunately, amyloid also builds up inside blood vessel walls in the brain. And as we’re dissolving that amyloid in the brain, we can’t selectively dissolve it just in between brain cells; we’re dissolving it everywhere.”

Risks & Safety – ARIA

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Mention the frequency and severity of occurrences, including deaths, and highlight the importance of seeking help.^{1,2}
- Emphasize the need for regular monitoring by patient/care partners and through MRI scans because ARIA is often non-symptomatic.^{1,3}
- Management: a decision will be made based on severity to pause treatment, change dosing, or stop treatment.^{1,3}

CONSIDERATIONS

- Emphasize and repeat that the risk of experiencing severe symptoms is small.³
- Use of inclusive language, indicating responsibility and involvement, i.e., ‘we would monitor you very closely’, ‘we have to perform an MRI’, ‘we pick up on scans’.³
- Use more generic language, i.e., ‘brain scans’, ‘imaging’, ‘MRI’.³

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“Luckily, the ARIA phenomenon in most cases is not something that presents with clinical symptoms. So, most people don’t even know that they have it. And it is something that we can pick up on imaging, like an MRI of the brain, which means if you were to undergo this treatment, we would monitor you very, very closely with regular MRIs.”

“And although that sounds very dramatic and scary, most of the time, there are no symptoms.”

“It generally clears over a few months, and most of the time, if there are symptoms, these are mild or moderate, rarely serious or severe. But nonetheless, we take this seriously, and we will monitor you to keep you safe.”

Risks & Safety – IRR

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Provide a preparatory explanation (for vigilance) of possible symptoms, i.e., ‘that you can get a reaction after an infusion’.^{1,2}
- Mention the potential risk.²
- Mention that they will be monitored for any allergic response and appropriate steps will be taken for management/therapy.^{1,2}

CONSIDERATIONS

- Use a reassuring tone, saying that they will be monitored, and that appropriate treatment will be administered in the event of any serious reaction.¹

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“One may be an infusion reaction, so when the medication is infused, you may have a transient feeling of unease, chills, and flushing, which will go away.”

“You might be allergic to the medication. And as we know, if you're allergic to anything, you are no longer to have that medication.”

Administration & Practicalities

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

- Highlight that a time commitment will be needed for treatment .^{1,2}
- Explain that there will be a need for regular IV infusions.¹⁻³
- Mention again the need for MRI monitoring for safety management to ensure the patient/caregiver receive a holistic picture of the time required.¹⁻³

CONSIDERATIONS

- Use contrasting language, i.e., ‘not as simple as taking a pill’, ‘different to the one you’re taking’.¹
- Use non-technical explanations of IV infusions, i.e., ‘drip into the arm’.¹

SAMPLE CONVERSATION

“This new kind of medication is not a simple tablet that you take, it’s slightly more complicated, but the brain is a more complicated organ. The medication is given as a drip in the arm. So, you’d have to come up to the unit regularly and have these infusions.”

“Like we talked about, we’ll also need to monitor things to make sure everything’s safe. So, what I want all of my patients and care partners to know is that this type of medication requires a degree of commitment in time and travel.”

Specific Situations – Eligibility & Counseling

WHEN APPLICABLE

CONSIDERATIONS

Eligibility for treatment and expectations.¹

Patients who want treatment but might not be eligible due to advanced disease or cognitive impairment due to non-Alzheimer’s disease pathology.

APOE genotyping recommendation and counseling.^{2,3}

Certain genetic makeup (APOE) is associated with an increased risk of ARIA development and can be determined by a blood test.

Example: “We would need to check your genetic status because we know that there are certain individuals that are more prone to developing ARIA, and those are the individuals that have a certain genetic variant called the *APOE* ε4 allele. So, we can have a simple blood test done to determine if you might be a candidate for this new therapy.”

Discussing the failure of treatment.¹

Not achieving clearance or continuing to progress clinically. Treatment is no longer appropriate, or the burden outweighs the benefit.

Contraindications related to emergent changes in health status.^{2,4}

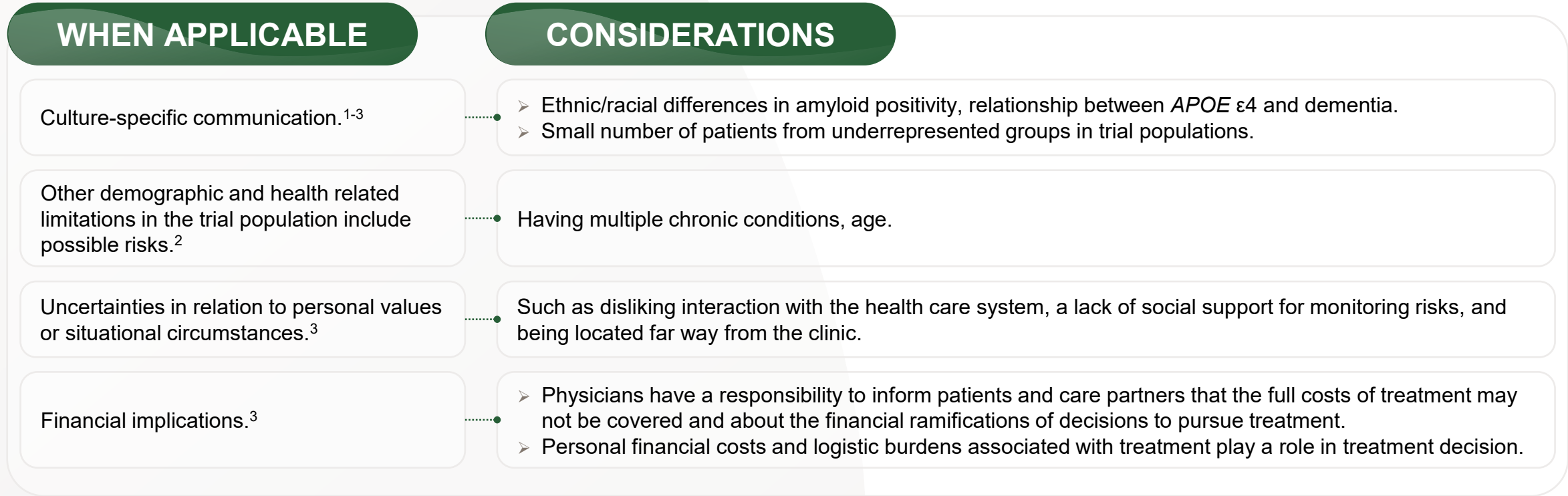
Consider if caution should be exercised when additional medications are administered.

APOE: Apolipoprotein E; ARIA: Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

1. Belder CRS et al. *Lancet Neurol.* 2023;22(9):782-3. 2. Data on file. 3. Cummings J et al. *J Prev Alzheimers Dis.* 2023;10(3):362-77. 4. Greenberg BD et al. *Alzheimers Dement (N Y).* 2023;9(4):e12426.



Specific Situations – Socioeconomic Factors



APOE: Apolipoprotein E; ARIA: Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

1. Cummings J et al. J Prev Alzheimers Dis. 2023;10(3):362-77. 2. Greenberg BD et al. Alzheimers Dement (N Y). 2023;9(4):e12426. 3. Sarkisian C et al. Ann Intern Med. 2024;177(2):246-8.





Section 4

Educational Support





Improving the Conversation for Recall and Understanding

GENERAL APPROACHES

1 TELL

- Present information in small 'digestible' amounts.¹
- Do not give too much information in one session.^{2,3}

2 AIDS

Use aids to support comprehension, i.e., draw diagrams.¹

3 PAUSE

Take a moment to check for patient understanding.¹

4 AIDS

- Additional resources could aid understanding and recall.¹
- i.e., printed handouts, selected websites, handwritten instructions, audio recording of the visit.

CONSIDERATIONS



The amount of information presented has an impact on recall.³



Data presented at the start and end tends to be remembered more effectively than items in the middle.³



Advice tends to be better remembered if specific rather than general i.e., 'you will heal in 5-7 days', compared to 'you will heal shortly'.³

1. Epstein RM et al. JAMA. 2004;291(19):2359-66. 2. Lecouturier J et al. BMC Health Serv Res. 2008;8:95. 3. Watson PWB, McKinstry B. J R Soc Med. 2009;102(6):235-43.



Improving the Conversation for Recall and Understanding

USING VISUAL AIDS

Structured, interactive information tailored to the individual will increase patient understanding.¹



Visual aids can influence both attention, comprehension, and recall.²⁻⁴

- Simple visual aids reinforce information in written or spoken instruction.^{2,3}
- Displaying statistical information can increase the likelihood of patients using the information in decision-making.^{5,6}



Presentation of data

- **Probabilistic data.** Best represented as event rates rather than words, probabilities, or effect measures (i.e., RRR).¹
- **Illustrations** (i.e., cartoons or simple charts) appear to aid understanding.¹

RRR: Relative Risk Reduction

1. Trevena LJ et al. J Eval Clin Pract. 2006;12(1):13–23. 2. Lee K, Nathan-Roberts D. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care. 2021;10(1):257-62. 3. Watson PWB, McKinstry B. J R Soc Med. 2009;102(6):235-43. 4. Schubbe D et al. Patient Educ Couns. 2020;103(10):1935-60. 5. Hawley ST et al. Patient Educ Couns. 2008;73(3):448-55. 6. Fagerlin A et al. Med Decis Making. 2005;25(4):398-405.

Improving the Conversation for Recall and Understanding

USING WRITTEN MATERIALS

Provide written summaries of diagnoses, plans, and relevant resources.¹

Relevant resources

- Provide education about their disease and direct them to high-quality resources.¹
- Limit and clarify misleading information that may be available i.e., through internet searches.¹



Written record / care plan

- Helps patients and care partners remember key elements from the session.¹
- Recalling healthcare advice is essential to adherence.²



CONSIDERATIONS



There are patients with low literacy levels, for whom **pictograms** could be a helpful supplement.²



Improve recall by **going through** the materials handed out to the patient.²

1. Armstrong MJ et al. Neurol Clin Pract. 2024;14(1):e200223. 2. Watson PWB, McKinstry B. J R Soc Med. 2009;102(6):235-43.



Communicating About Risks & Uncertainty



ARIA: Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

1. Stevenson M et al. Dementia (London) 2018;17(3):359-90. 2. Infanti J et al. A literature review on effective risk communication for the prevention and control of communicable diseases in Europe. Stockholm: ECDC; 2013. 3. Weinstein ND, Klein WM. Health Risk Appraisal and Optimistic Bias. International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (Second Edition). 2015;698-701.



Communicating About Risks and Uncertainty

CONSIDERATIONS

Prioritize and limit the number of disclosed side effects (one to four)¹

- ✓ Improves recall
- ✓ Minimizes the nocebo effect
- ✓ Improves adherence

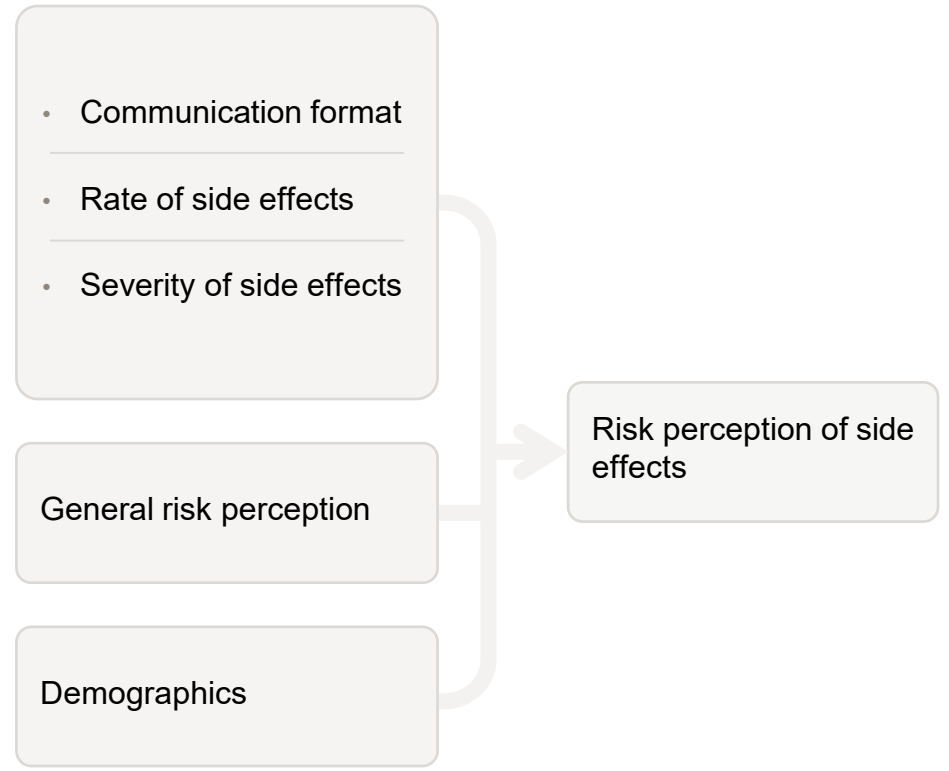
Avoid verbal descriptions of risks only^{2,3}

- Descriptive words such as ‘rare’ or ‘common’ can be interpreted very differently between people.²
- The likelihood of experiencing low-rate side effects might be overestimated when using only verbal descriptions.³

Keep in mind that many patients have low numeracy skills⁴

- ✓ Use absolute risk instead of relative risk to present statistical information. Relative risk tends to make changes in risk appear larger.
- ✓ Use pictographs to communicate risk and benefit information.

ILLUSTRATION³



1. Barker JM, Faasse K. Intern Med J. 2023;53(9):1692-6. 2. Siegel CA. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2011;33:23–32. 3. Sawant R, Sangiriy S. Pharm Pract (Granada). 2018;16(2):1174. 4. Fagerlin A et al. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2011;103(19):1436-43.





Section 5

Additional Considerations





Additional Considerations

Support & Future

- Reminder on advanced directive support and planning for the future.
- Quality of life is inherently reliant on the perception and communication abilities of the patient. Therefore, a record of future care preferences could be highly beneficial in the early disease stage.¹
- The potential for miscommunication and leaving the patient out of the loop in terms of services and treatment planning is an ever-present danger.²

HCP – HCP Communication

- Doctors feeling more competent in discussions with radiologists will lead to better patient care.³
- Poor communication in explaining radiological imaging can result in a delay in investigation and potentially adverse clinical outcomes.³

ALZ-NET Registry

- ALZ-NET offers medical professionals access to real-world data, resources, and instructions regarding ALZ-NET operations, dementia care, and imaging services for sites and clinicians.



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