### Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia

**Participant’s Guide**

**Introduction**

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**Notes:**

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Impact of Alzheimer’s Disease

Notes:

How many Americans are currently living with Alzheimer’s?
- 850,000
- 5.7 million
- 12 million
- 3.4 million

How many unpaid Alzheimer’s caregivers are there in the United States?
- 1.2 million
- 8.5 million
- 13 million
- 16.1 million
Alzheimer’s and Dementia

Notes:

Alzheimer’s is a normal part of the aging process.

True  False
People younger than age 65 can get Alzheimer’s.

True  False

Notes:

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Alzheimer’s and Dementia Recap

- Dementia is a general term for a collection of symptoms that are severe enough to interfere with daily life.
- Alzheimer’s is the most common cause of dementia.
- Alzheimer’s is not a normal part of aging; it is a progressive brain disease.
Alzheimer’s in the Brain

Notes:

- More than 100 years ago, Dr. Alois Alzheimer described specific changes in the brain, the formation of plaques and tangles.
- Alzheimer’s causes nerve cells to die, which leads to shrinkage in the brain.
- The brain changes result in changes in memory, thinking and behavior.
Risk Factors

Notes:

What is the greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease?

- Genetics
- Family history
- Age

Dr. Heather Snyder
Alzheimer’s Association
Populations at higher risk

- Hispanics are about 1.5 times as likely as whites to develop Alzheimer’s and other dementias.
- African Americans are about twice as likely to develop the disease as whites.
- Almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer’s are women.

Risk Factors Recap

- Age is the greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer's. An individual's risk for developing the disease increases at age 65.
- Family history is also a known risk factor — having a parent or sibling with the disease increases an individual's risk.
- Risk genes and deterministic genes are the two types of genes associated with Alzheimer's.
- Hispanics, African Americans and women are at an increased risk for Alzheimer’s.

Notes:
Stages of Alzheimer’s Disease

Notes:
The three stages of Alzheimer’s disease — early, middle and late — are sometimes referred to as mild, moderate and severe in a medical context.

No two individuals experience the symptoms and progression of Alzheimer’s disease in the same way.

While symptoms worsen over time, people progress through stages at different rates as their abilities change.
FDA-Approved Treatments for Symptoms

There are several drugs available to slow down the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

True  False

Notes:
FDA-Approved Treatments for Symptoms

Cholinesterase inhibitors: Aricept, Exelon, Razadyne
Glutamate modulators: Namenda
Combination of cholinesterase inhibitors and glutamate modulators: Namzaric

Notes:

FDA-Approved Treatments Recap

- Three types of drugs are approved by the FDA to help manage Alzheimer's symptoms.
  - Cholinesterase inhibitors: Aricept (donepezil), Exelon (rivastigmine), Razadyne (galantamine)
  - Glutamate modulators: Namenda (memantine)
  - Combination of cholinesterase inhibitors and glutamate modulators: Namzaric (memantine + donepezil)
- These treatments only address some symptoms of Alzheimer's in some people, they do not treat the underlying cause of the disease.
Advancing Alzheimer’s Research

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Advancing Alzheimer’s Research Recap

- Scientists have increased their understanding of Alzheimer’s significantly over the past decade.
- People living with dementia, caregivers and healthy volunteers without dementia are needed for clinical studies in order to find methods of prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure.
- Both drug and non-drug studies are taking place across the country and online.
- TrialMatch (alz.org/TrialMatch) is a free clinical studies matching service.
About the Alzheimer’s Association

Our mission:
The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s disease.

800.272.3900 | alz.org
Alzheimer’s Association Key Resources

We’re available wherever and whenever you need reliable information and support.

- On the phone – 24/7 Helpline, 800.272.3900
- Online – alz.org
- In communities nationwide – alz.org/CRF

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Tim W.
Care partner

Theresa M.
Living with Alzheimer’s
Alzheimer’s Association Resources

- Call the 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900). Care specialists and master’s-level clinicians provide reliable information and support all day, every day.
- Visit alz.org®, a robust repository of up-to-date dementia-related information and resources.
- Join ALZConnected® (alzconnected.org), our free online community, to connect with other caregivers or people living with dementia.
- Explore Alzheimer’s Association & AARP Community Resource Finder (alz.org/CRF) to locate dementia resources, programs and services in your area, including your local Association office.
- Assess your needs and create customized action plans with Alzheimer’s Navigator® (alzheimersnavigator.org).
- Check out alz.org/research to learn more about Alzheimer’s and other dementias and the Association’s involvement in advancing the field of research.
- Go to alz.org/publications to access our catalog of brochures and topic sheets covering a variety of dementia-related topics.

For people living with dementia:
- Visit alz.org/IHaveAlz to start learning and planning in order to live your best life today.
- Access LiveWell Online Resources (alz.org/livewell) for free interactive tools and personalized steps for living well with the disease.
- Take our free Living with Alzheimer’s: For People with Alzheimer’s workshop online at alz.org/education or through your local Alzheimer’s Association office (alz.org/CRF).

For caregivers:
- Find support and information for all stages of the disease at alz.org/care.
- Visit the alz.org/safety for a comprehensive offering of safety information, tips and resources.
- Take our free Living with Alzheimer’s: For Caregivers workshop series online at alz.org/education or through your local Alzheimer’s Association office (alz.org/CRF).

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