

The Medical Letter[®]

on Drugs and Therapeutics

AMYLOID-DIRECTED ANTIBODIES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Updated August 8, 2024

The Medical Letter[®]

Because the source matters.

To support more content like this, please consider making a [donation](#) or becoming a [subscriber](#).

The Medical Letter is a nonprofit organization* that relies solely on subscription fees and donations to support our mission of providing objective, practical, and timely information on drugs and therapeutics.

Our work relies on support from people like you who value credible, unbiased drug information that is free of any commercial interest.

For more information visit our [website](#) or call Customer Service at: 800-211-2769

*The Medical Letter is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

AMYLOID-DIRECTED ANTIBODIES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

	Donanemab (Kisunla)	Lecanemab (Leqembi)
Manufacturer	Lilly	Eisai/Biogen
FDA-Approved Indication	Treatment of Alzheimer's disease; should only be started in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia	
Efficacy	Modestly slowed cognitive decline in patients with early Alzheimer's disease	
Formulations	350 mg/20 mL single-dose vials	500 mg/5 mL, 200 mg/2mL single-dose vials
Dosage	700 mg x 3 doses, then 1400 mg	10 mg/kg
Administration	IV infusion over 30 minutes once every 4 weeks	IV infusion over 1 hour once every 2 weeks
Common Adverse Effects	Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA; cerebral edema, microhemorrhages, superficial siderosis)	
MRI Monitoring for ARIA	Before the 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th and 7 th infusions	Before the 5 th , 7 th and 14 th infusions
Treatment Duration	May be stopped after amyloid plaques on PET imaging are reduced to minimal levels	Not determined by amyloid plaque response
Cost/Year	\$32,000	\$26,500