

Evidence Discussion (HD-8.5)

- Structural brain imaging in the work up of patients diagnosed with dementia is primarily to exclude other significant intracranial abnormalities. A brain MRI will assist with the diagnosis of dementia by excluding structural pathology such as tumors or subdural hematomas.¹
- Amyloid related imaging abnormalities (ARIA) have been associated with treatment by amyloid reduction medications. ARIA usually occurs early in treatment and may be asymptomatic although serious and life-threatening events may occur. Screening brain MRI prior to treatment initiation and periodic monitoring during treatment is recommended.^{2,3} For moderate to severe ARIA, treatment may be suspended. Once ARIA is identified on a brain MRI, follow up MRIs are indicated to assess for radiographic resolution and/or symptom resolution with the imaging time frame determined by the treating physician.^{2,3} Resumption of dosing is guided by clinical judgment.^{2,3}
- Amyloid PET brain is a form of molecular imaging, which uses a tracer that binds to amyloid plaques in the brain. At the present time, the use of Amyloid PET brain is limited to confirming the presence of amyloid in the brain, in those with mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, prior to treatment with amyloid reducing medications.²⁻⁷

References:

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