

## New Alzheimer's drug delivers disappointing results

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An experimental [Alzheimer's](#) drug called crenezumab did not prevent or

slow mental decline in patients with a genetic mutation that greatly raises the risk of developing the disease, the results of a decade-long clinical trial show.

The mutation seen in the few hundred study participants from an extended family in Colombia means they're virtually guaranteed to develop Alzheimer's in their mid-40s to mid-50s and highly likely to die in their 60s, *The New York Times* reported.

The trial was the first to test a drug meant to delay or halt mental decline in people who have a [genetic predisposition](#) for Alzheimer's, but do not yet have any symptoms.

"We're disappointed that the treatment did not demonstrate a statistically significant clinical benefit," Dr. Eric Reiman, executive director of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute and one of the study leaders, said in a [news release](#) announcing the results. "At the same time, we're proud of the impact that this precedent-setting trial has had in shaping a new era in Alzheimer's prevention research and we're extremely grateful to our research participants and their families."

Crenezumab is a monoclonal antibody from Genenetch, part of the Roche Group. Study participants were given either the drug or a placebo.

In 2019, Roche [halted](#) two other trials of crenezumab in people in the early stages of the more common type of Alzheimer's because the drug was unlikely to provide any benefits.

These latest results add to a series of failures of drugs that target amyloid, a protein that plays a major role in Alzheimer's by forming sticky plaques in the brain, the *Times* reported.

In a controversial move last year, the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration granted its first approval of an anti-amyloid drug, [Aduhelm](#), despite acknowledging that it was unclear if the [drug](#) could actually help patients.

Many Alzheimer's experts slammed the FDA's decision at the time, pointing to the disappointing history of anti-amyloid treatments, the *Times* reported.

**More information:** Visit the National Institute on Aging for more on [Alzheimer's disease](#).

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