

## Gantenerumab does not slow clinical decline in early Alzheimer disease, research finds

November 16 2023, by Elana Gotkine

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The use of gantenerumab leads to lower amyloid plaque burden at 116 weeks, but is not associated with slower clinical decline among patients with early Alzheimer disease, according to a study published in the Nov. 16 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Randall J. Bateman, M.D., from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and colleagues conducted two phase 3 trials involving participants aged 50 to 90 years with [mild cognitive impairment](#) or [mild dementia](#) due to Alzheimer disease and evidence of amyloid plaques. Overall, 985 and 980 participants in the GRADUATE I and GRADUATE II trials, respectively, were randomly assigned to receive gantenerumab or placebo every two weeks.

The researchers found that the change from baseline in the Clinical Dementia Rating Scale-Sum of Boxes score at week 116 was 3.35 and 3.65 with gantenerumab and placebo, respectively, in the GRADUATE I trial, and 2.82 and 3.01 in the GRADUATE II trial (difference,  $-0.31$  and  $-0.19$ , respectively).

The difference in the amyloid level on [positron emission tomography](#) (PET) between the gantenerumab group and the [placebo group](#) was  $-66.44$  and  $-56.46$  centiloids in the GRADUATE I and II trials, respectively, at week 116; 28.0 and 26.8 percent of the participants receiving gantenerumab in the two trials achieved amyloid-negative status.

Participants receiving gantenerumab across both [trials](#) had lower cerebrospinal fluid levels of phosphorylated tau 181 and higher levels of amyloid $\beta$ 42 than those receiving placebo; the two groups had similar accumulation of aggregated tau on PET.

"The use of the anti-amyloid antibody gantenerumab did not lead to a slower decline in cognitive function than placebo," the authors write.

**More information:** Randall J. Bateman et al, Two Phase 3 Trials of Gantenerumab in Early Alzheimer's Disease, *New England Journal of Medicine* (2023). [DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2304430](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2304430)

Lon S. Schneider, What the Gantenerumab Trials Teach Us about Alzheimer's Treatment, *New England Journal of Medicine* (2023). [DOI: 10.1056/NEJMe2310903](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMe2310903)

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