

No Alzheimer's Drugs?

5 Drugs Approved - None Work

"We Have an Urgent Need to Find New Therapies for Alzheimer's Disease."



The barrier for approval of new Alzheimer's drug is extremely low. Why? Because existing drugs provide no benefit to patients. Thus any new drug that provides slight benefit will be approved by the FDA.

What does that tell you about the disease? Well drugs usually

have "action" on a single target. But Alzheimer's disease is multifactorial. Thus "single target" drugs are not likely to provide much benefit to patients.

What is the solution? A broad a deep diagnosis that identifies many factors that cause the disease followed by treatments.

Pharma "Giving Up"

Leading pharmaceutical companies are 'giving up' on a cure for Alzheimer's after the failure of several high-profile trials.

Drug firms are scaling down the search for new Alzheimer's treatments after spending millions on late-stage trials which have collapsed in the past five years.

Last month Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson pulled the plug on the experimental drug bapineuzumab after the failure of two high-profile clinical trials.

Both said they had scrapped plans for further studies of the drug in its injected form.

Shares in the companies fell after the news was announced. Eli Lilly, which is developing a similar drug, also took a hit.



Few Drugs - Frequent Failures

An Article in, "Alzheimer's Research and Therapy," indicate that relatively few clinical trials are undertaken for AD therapeutics considering the magnitude of the problem. The success rate for advancing from one phase of a clinical trial to another is low, and the number of compounds (drugs) progressing to regulatory review is among the lowest found in any therapeutic area.



The human and financial costs of the disease are growing rapidly as the population ages, but the prospects of treatments to halt it, or slow its progress, are receding as at least five trials in the past five years have delivered no results. The setbacks have damaged confidence among drug makers in the field of neuroscience – brain research.