

The Coming Alzheimer's Disease Healthcare Revolution

US Physician and Adult Perspectives on the Future of Diagnostics and Treatment

The Coming Alzheimer's Disease Healthcare Revolution: US Physician and Adult Perspectives on the Future of Diagnostics and Treatment, a new report from Quest Diagnostics, reveals physician and US adult perspectives on the current and future landscape of dementia and Alzheimer's disease (AD) evaluation, testing, treatment, and care. Findings highlight the important role diagnostics may play in the next era of AD.

The report is based on insights from online surveys of 501 primary care providers (PCPs) and 2,052 Americans aged 18 years and older. Quest Diagnostics commissioned the surveys, conducted in March 2022 by The Harris Poll, to glean insights into differing perspectives of PCPs, who are increasingly likely to be on the front lines of AD diagnosis, and ordinary U.S adults, whose expectations may ultimately shape the use of diagnostics and therapies in the future.



Top 5 Key Findings

1 Physicians foresee a coming Alzheimer's disease treatment revolution, but half say there will never be a cure.



66% of physicians believe that we are on the precipice of groundbreaking new treatment options for AD.



41% of physicians do not think there will ever be a cure for AD. In contrast, 90% of US adults say they are hopeful that new therapies will cure the disease.



77% of physicians say new therapies will transform AD into a chronic, manageable disease, even without a cure.

Perspectives Align on Future Role of Blood Tests in Alzheimer's Diagnosis and Monitoring

87%

87% of physicians believe blood tests for the early detection of AD risk will increasingly become the standard of care.

86%

86% of US adults believe such blood tests will increasingly become a regular part of preventative care.

2 Physicians predict a blood test for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease risk will transform diagnosis and monitoring – and lead to better care.



91% of physicians say a blood test for the early detection of AD risk will revolutionize how physicians diagnose the disease.

81% say it will revolutionize how AD is monitored over time.



93% of physicians say blood tests would help identify potential candidates for treatment.



76% of physicians agree that blood tests for the early detection of AD risk will support more equitable care and management of the disease.

3 Despite fear of a diagnosis, adult Americans want to be evaluated for dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, nearly 10 years earlier than current medical practice.

Physicians say they begin evaluating patients for AD at about 66 years of age (mean). Yet, US adults want to be evaluated for dementia, including AD, around age 57 (mean) – a difference of nearly 10 years.

 of American adults would want to incorporate a blood test that detects early risk of AD into their preventative health visits so they can make plans for themselves and their families.

 of adults have some fear about receiving an AD diagnosis. However, 83% of adults say they would agree to take a blood test for the early detection of AD risk if their results might help researchers develop better treatments for the disease.

Top Three Fears Surrounding an Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosis:



4 Physicians are confident blood tests would enable quicker specialist referrals but fear the healthcare system is not equipped to handle a surge in diagnoses.

 of physicians agree that the ability to order 1 blood test that could detect risk for AD would enable them to refer their patients to a neurologist or other specialist more expeditiously.

 of physicians who refer patients to neurological specialists for further treatment or evaluation for dementia including AD have had patients face delays in getting an appointment in the past 12 months.

 of physicians say that blood tests for AD will lead to a surge in diagnoses, which 60% say the current healthcare system/workforce would not be able to handle.

5 Physicians and US adults both call for more education and guidance as the Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and treatment landscape shifts.

 of physicians agree that the value of a blood test for the early risk of AD depends on the quality of education around it.

 of physicians say educational resources about the science behind blood tests would be very or extremely useful to their care for patients, in addition to best practices on when and how to use such blood tests (79%), among other resources.

 of adults agree they want more education about when they should be proactively evaluated for signs of AD and other forms of dementia.

Methodology

On behalf of Quest Diagnostics, The Harris Poll conducted 2 online surveys in March 2022: one among 501 US duly licensed primary care providers (PCPs) with a patient load of two or more, and another among 2,052 Americans aged 18 and older. Data for the PCP survey were weighted where necessary by age, gender, and specialty to bring them in line with their actual proportions in the population. Data for the general population survey were weighted where necessary by age, gender, race/ethnicity, region, education, marital status, household size, household income, and propensity to be online, to bring them in line with their actual proportions in the population. For more information, contact Kim Gorode, Kimberly.B.Gorode@questdiagnostics.com or Ellen Murphy, Ellen.Murphy@syneoshealth.com.

About Quest Diagnostics

Quest Diagnostics empowers people to take action to improve health outcomes. Derived from the world's largest database of clinical lab results, our diagnostic insights reveal new avenues to identify and treat disease, inspire healthy behaviors, and improve health care management. Quest annually serves 1 in 3 adult Americans and half the physicians and hospitals in the United States, and our nearly 50,000 employees understand that, in the right hands and with the right context, our diagnostic insights can inspire actions that transform lives. Learn more at www.QuestDiagnostics.com.