



THE ROLE OF AMYLOID BETA ($A\beta$) IN DIAGNOSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (AD)

Abnormal $A\beta$ is a biomarker of AD¹

$A\beta$ is a protein found in the brain that begins accumulating years before AD symptoms appear.² Abnormal $A\beta$ pathology can be detected in a primary care setting to aid in early diagnosis and referral to an AD specialist.³

A β pathology can be tested for in a primary care setting prior to referral³

Where A β detection may fit on the path to AD diagnosis

Steps PCPs can take NOW:

N

Note and assess MCI

Through direct observation and discussion with patients and care partners, make note of any signs of mild cognitive impairment and rule out other possible causes.⁴

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Order a cognitive work up

Perform cognitive screening with a validated test that is sensitive to MCI and **consider testing for A β pathology with a blood biomarker test.**^{2,3}

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Weigh results and refer

Refer to an AD specialist if evidence suggests the need for further testing.⁴

Referral

The AD specialist:

Reviews patient file and evaluates PCP's findings

May order CSF test or PET scan to confirm brain amyloid pathology⁵

CSF test

Lumbar puncture, or spinal tap, is used to collect CSF⁶

CSF is tested for A β and other biomarkers of AD⁶

PET scan

Imaging agent is injected into patient's veins⁷

PET scan is reviewed to detect A β in patient's brain⁷

After referral from primary care, AD specialists must confirm A β pathology in the brain before prescribing appropriate therapy.⁸

ACT EARLY. ACT NOW.

Note and
assess MCI

Order a cognitive
workup

Weigh results
and refer

MCI=mild cognitive impairment.



Learn more at
[YoungerThanYouThink.com](https://www.YoungerThanYouThink.com)

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