Alzheimer’s Disease: Preparing for the Epidemic

May 14, 2008
Dialogue on Diversity
Health Care Symposium
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ACT-AD
Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer’s Disease
Life Expectancy and Longevity

- Neanderthal: 20
- Classical Rome: 28
- Medieval England: 33
- U.S. (1900): 47.3
- Current U.S.: 77.9
The Growing Burden of Alzheimer’s Disease

- Most common form of dementia: 60-80 percent of cases
- Seventh leading cause of death; fifth among those 65+
- First symptoms are difficulty remembering names and recent events; progresses to impaired judgment, disorientation, confusion, behavior changes; then trouble speaking, swallowing and walking
- Hallmarks are deposits of the protein fragment beta-amyloid (plaques) and twisted strands of tau (tangles)
- Greatest risk factor is advancing age
Aging of America

- Oldest of Baby Boomers are age 62
- In 2011 they will turn 65
- 37 million are currently 65+
- By 2030 this will double to 74 million
Updates on the Scale of the Alzheimer’s Epidemic

- According to new figures from the Alzheimer’s Association:
  - Every 71 seconds someone in America develops Alzheimer’s
  - More than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer’s today; including 200,000 under age 65
  - Will increase to 7.7 million by 2030
  - Estimated to affect 11-16 million by 2050
Demographic Impact

- Women are twice as likely as men to develop Alzheimer’s: it will affect 1 in 6 women age 55+
- African-Americans and Latinos may be more likely to develop dementia due to a host of factors including higher rates of vascular disease and its risk factors of high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes
- More research is needed to understand the risk factors for the disease in different populations
The Costs of Alzheimer's Disease

Direct and indirect costs = $148 billion annually:

- $112 billion in Medicare and Medicaid costs
- $36.5 billion in indirect costs to business for employees who are caregivers

Potential savings from delaying onset:

- Five year delay in AD = nearly $4 Trillion in economic value from 2010 to 2050. (Vernon 2007)
Caregiver Impact

- Seventy percent of people with Alzheimer’s are cared for at home by family and friends.
- Almost 10 million people provide unpaid care: 60 percent are women, 40 percent are men.
- 1 in 4 provide 40+ hours per week.
- Close to one-third provide care for more than five years.
Tools to Increase Public Awareness

“A Quick Look at Alzheimer’s”

- Series of 4 “pocket films”
- Less than 3 minutes each
- Designed to be downloaded and shared
- Go to: [www.agingresearch.org](http://www.agingresearch.org) or [www.aboutalz.org](http://www.aboutalz.org) to view, download, or purchase a DVD
ACT-AD

- Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer’s Disease

- Coalition of 50 national organizations representing patients, providers, caregivers, consumers, older Americans, researchers, and employers seeking to accelerate development of potential cures and treatments for Alzheimer’s disease

- www.act-ad.org
Need for Speedier Development

- Currently available therapies that change the course of the disease: 0
- More than 100 compounds in development
- Almost two dozen treatments in late-stage development
Progress on Alzheimer’s

Food and Drug Administration

- Creation of Intra-agency Neurology Working Group
- Expanding Patient Representative/Consultant Program to include AD
- Alzheimer’s Disease Allies Workshop
Progress on Alzheimer’s

- Series of Congressional hearings
- Ongoing advocacy for increased appropriations for FDA
- Non-partisan Alzheimer’s Disease Study Group
ACT-AD

Future Plans:

- Conduct more Allies workshops with FDA
- Continue to identify gaps and sponsor research
- Continue to build awareness, call for action to accelerate access to new therapies