



## Unmet Needs in Agitation Associated with Alzheimer's Dementia (AAD)

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# Alzheimer's Dementia (AD) Is Highly Prevalent and Predicted to Increase Significantly<sup>1</sup>

An estimated

~6.5 MILLION ADULTS

age ≥65 years in the United States are currently living with **Alzheimer's dementia**<sup>1</sup>

By the year 2050, that number is expected to double, to

~12.7 MILLION ADULTS<sup>1</sup>

. 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. *Alzheimer's Dement*. 2022;18(4):700-789.



# Neuropsychiatric Symptoms (NPS) Like Agitation Are Core Features of AD<sup>1</sup>



In addition to cognitive decline, manifestations of AD include a range of NPS, such as depression, anxiety, irritability, and **agitation**<sup>1,2</sup>



Agitation is one of the most **complex, prominent, stressful, and costly** aspects of AD care<sup>2,3</sup>

I. Anatchkova M, et al. Int Psychogeriatr. 2019;31(9):1305-1318.

Kales HC, et al. *BMJ*. 2015;350:h369.

3. Antonsdottir IM, et al. *Expert Opin Pharmacother*. 2015;16(11):1649-1656.

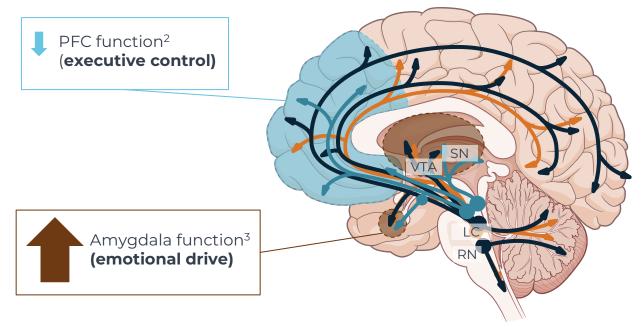


## Summary of NSD Monoamine Dysfunction in AAD

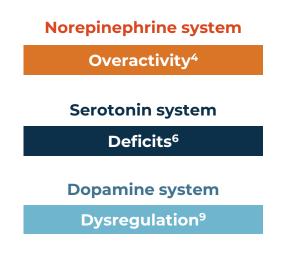
#### Tau pathology and neurodegeneration in key prefrontal and subcortical brain regions may increase the risk of developing AAD<sup>1</sup>

10.

AAD may reflect an imbalance between top-down **executive control** and bottom-up **emotional drive**<sup>1</sup>



Dysfunction of NSD neurotransmitter system may contribute to imbalance between **executive control** and **emotional overdrive**<sup>2-10</sup>



LC=locus coeruleus. NSD=norepinephrine, serotonin, dopamine. PFC=prefrontal cortex. RN=raphe nuclei. SN=substantia 5. nigra. VTA=ventral tegmental area. 6.

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- Arnsten AF, et al. Neurobiol Stress. 2015;1:89-99.
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## The International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) Definition of Agitation in Patients With Cognitive Disorders<sup>1</sup>

#### The consensus definition for agitation in cognitive disorders includes four criteria:

- 1. The patient meets the criteria for cognitive impairment or dementia syndrome
- 2. The patient must exhibit ≥1 agitation behavior(s), and the behavior(s) must be persistent or frequently recurrent for ≥2 weeks
- 3. The agitation must be severe enough to produce excess disability beyond that due to cognitive impairment
- 4. The agitation cannot be attributed to another psychiatric disorder, suboptimal care conditions, a medical condition, or the physiological effects of substance use.

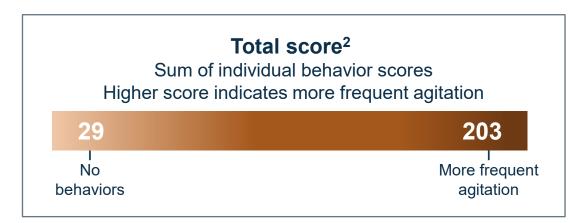
#### Agitation behaviors include:



## The Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI) Measures the Frequency of a Broad Range of Agitated Behaviors

- The CMAI questionnaire quantifies the frequency of 29 agitated behaviors within the previous two weeks, rated on a 7-point scale<sup>1</sup>
- 2. The questionnaire can be completed by caregivers or healthcare practitioners<sup>1,2</sup>
- Point changes within the CMAI scale should be compared and interpreted with care<sup>1</sup>





1. Cohen-Mansfield J. Instruction Manual for the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI). The Research Institute of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington; 1991.

2. Sano M, et al. J Prev Alzheimers Dis. 2018;5(2):98-102.



## The CMAI Measures a Broad Range of Behaviors of Agitation Consistent With the IPA Consensus Definition of Agitation

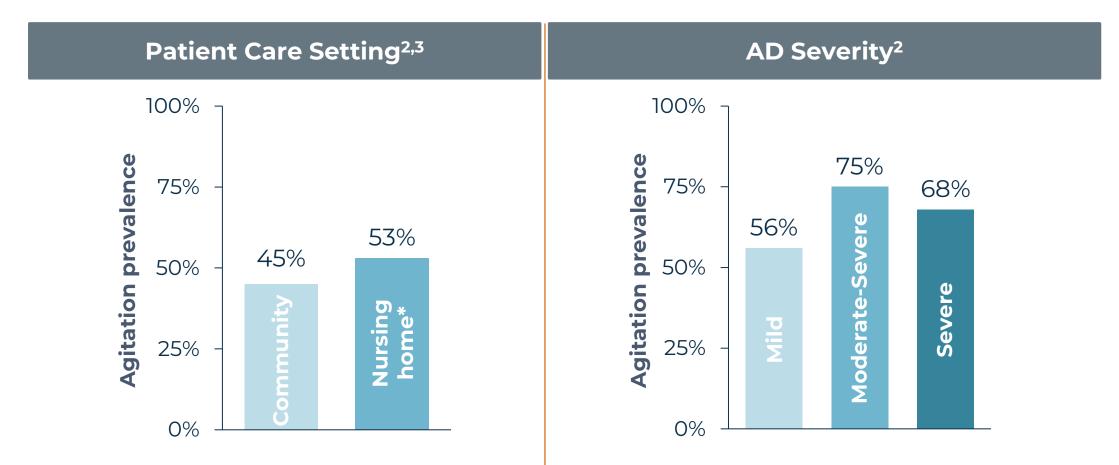
<ul> <li>Many behaviors in the CMAI are relevant to the three domains of the IPA definition of agitation, including<sup>1,2</sup>:</li> </ul>	29 CMAI behaviors <sup>2,3</sup>				
	Pacing and aimless wandering	Hiding things	Throwing things	Spitting	Making physical sexual advances or exposing genitals
	Inappropriate dressing or disrobing	Hoarding things	Screaming	Cursing or verbal aggression	Eating or drinking inappropriate substances
Excessive motor activity	Trying to get to a different place	Constant unwarranted request for attention and/or help	Biting	Hitting self or others	Making strange noises
Verbal aggression	Handling things inappropriately	Repetitive sentences and questions	Scratching	Kicking	Intentional falling
Physical aggression	Performing repetitious mannerisms	Complaining	Hurting self or others	Grabbing people or things inappropriately	Making verbal sexual advances
	General restlessness	Negativism	Tearing things or destroying property	Pushing	
<ol> <li>Cummings J, et al. Int Psychogeriatr. 2015;27(1): 7-17.</li> <li>Cohen-Mansfield J. Instruction Manual for the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI) 1991.</li> </ol>					

Cohen-Mansfield J. Instruction Manual for the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI) 1991. 3

Rabinowitz J, et al. Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2005;13(11):991-998



## Agitation Associated with AD Is Highly Prevalent Across Patient Settings and Disease Severity<sup>1,2</sup>



\*Nursing home percentage reported includes those with AD and other dementias.

- 1. Kales H, et al. BMJ. 2015;350:h369.
- 2. Halpern R, et al. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2019;34(3):420-431.
- 3. Fillit H, et al. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2021;36(12):1959-1969.



# AAD Worsens the Impact of an Already Devastating Disease for the Patient

AAD is associated with<sup>1-5</sup>:



### Accelerated disease progression



Increased risk of institutionalization



#### **Functional decline**



### **Earlier death**



#### **Decreased quality of life**

. Banerjee S, et al. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 2006;77(2):146-148.

- 2. Halpern R, et al. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2019;34(3):420–431.
- 3. Koenig AM, et al. Curr Psychiatry Rep. 2016;18(1):3.

- 4. Peters ME, et al. Am J Psychiatry. 2015;172(5):460-465.
- 5. Scarmeas N, et al. Arch Neurol. 2007;64(12):1755-1761.
- The information provided by PsychU is intended for your educational benefit only. It is not intended as, nor is it a substitute for medical care or advice or professional diagnosis. Users seeking medical advice should consult with their physician or other health care professional.



## Caregivers Are Needed to Identify Symptoms of AAD Despite Carrying a Substantial Burden Themselves<sup>1-6</sup>

- Detection of agitation is often based on caregiver report<sup>5</sup>
  - Underdiagnosis of AAD may result from inadequate reporting by caregivers due to the burden involved in providing care<sup>5,6</sup>
- Burden of care **increases with severity** of agitation<sup>1-4</sup>
- Caregiver distress can lead to increased institutionalization of patients with dementia<sup>4</sup>
- Informal caregivers spend more than 20 additional hours per week actively helping patients with agitation<sup>4</sup>

- 1. Allegri RF, et al. Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat. 2006;(1):105–110.
- 2. Grossberg GT, et al. Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2020;28(4):383-400.
- 3. Mohamed S, et al. Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2010;18(10):917-927.

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- 5. Stella F, et al. Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2015;30(12):1230-1237.
- 6. Amjad H, et al. J Gen Intern Med. 2018;33(7):1131-11387.



# Treatment Guidelines for Agitation Associated with Alzheimer's Disease<sup>1,2</sup>

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#### **Differential diagnosis**

Careful evaluation and treatment for general medical, psychiatric, environmental, or psychosocial problems that may underlie the disturbance

#### Nonpharmacological intervention

If agitation does not cause significant danger or marked distress to the patient or others, symptoms are best treated with environmental or behavioral measures

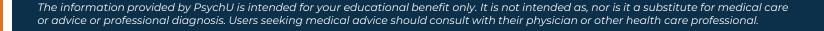
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#### Pharmacological intervention

If nonpharmacological measures are unsuccessful or behaviors are dangerous or markedly distressing, then judicious pharmacological intervention is recommended

1. Rabins PV, et al. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2007;164(12):5-56.

2. Reus VI, et al. Am J Psychiatry. 2016;173(5):543-546.





## **Treatment Considerations**



#### **Currently, clinicians may prescribe** the following<sup>1-3</sup>:

- Antidepressants •
- Anxiolytics or sedative-hypnotics •
- Antipsychotics (typical and atypical) •
- Other Medications •

## Pharmacological treatments for AAD can be associated with adverse events:<sup>2,5-7</sup>





Orthostatic hypotension



Cognitive worsening

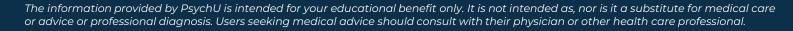
Fractures and falls

Cerebrovascular and cardiovascular complications

\*Some family caregivers of patients with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia find sedative effects distressing and unhelpful<sup>7</sup>. 4.

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  - Harding R, et al. Med Law Rev. 2012;21(2):243-277.





## There Is an Unmet Need for FDA-approved Treatments for AAD



There is a need for approved pharmaceutical treatments that demonstrate efficacy, in addition to safety, in the treatment of AAD

FDA=US Food and Drug Administration.

1. Caraci F, et al. F1000Res. 2020;9:F1000 Faculty Rev-686.





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