

The **Alzheimer's Disease Center at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center** is one of about 29 specialty centers in the country funded by the National Institute on Aging, a branch of the National Institute of Health. The purpose of our center is to include volunteers and patients in a variety of studies focused on the investigation of brain changes with healthy aging, Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and other cognitive disorders, such as Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD).

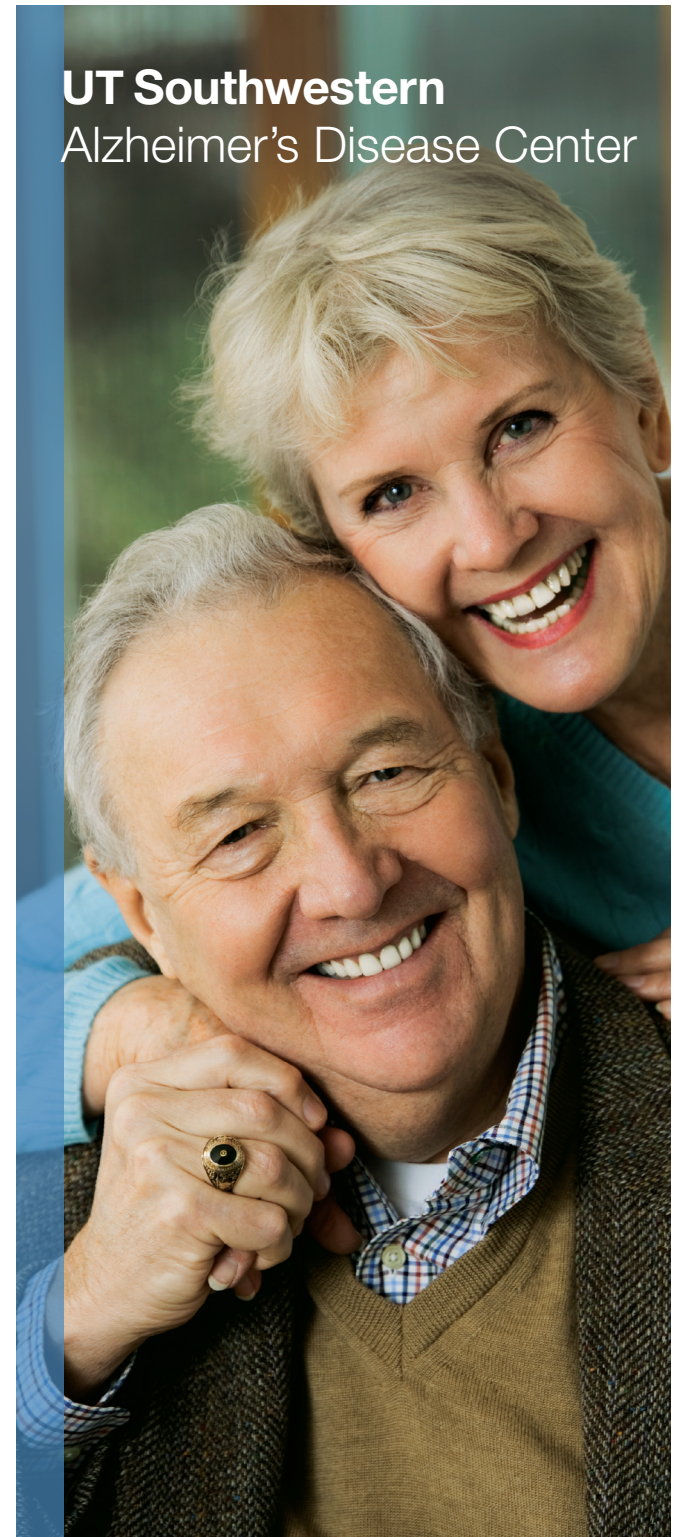
Committed to finding better diagnostics and treatment for neurological illnesses, our center brings together scientists, physicians, nurses, counselors and other researchers from neurology, neuropsychology and geriatric psychiatry to promote research into neurological disorders. We coordinate and support numerous studies investigating normal aging, as well as the causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of various cognitive disorders.

How to contact us

Study coordinators at our Center look forward to speaking with you and your family about participating in research, to provide information about specific studies or to answer any other related questions. Please call **214-648-9376** or view our website: **www.utsouthwestern.edu/adc** for more information.

UT SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL CENTER

UT Southwestern Alzheimer's Disease Center



Who can participate

Because researchers here conduct a variety of studies delving into cognitive issues, we enroll a variety of people into research studies.

Normal Control Observational Studies – We enroll and conduct yearly follow up of persons who are over the age of 60 and do not have any significant symptoms of cognitive impairment. This study allows us to learn about the changes that occur normally in aging and to make important comparisons of normal versus abnormal aging brain function.

Mild Cognitive Impairment – Observational Studies – We enroll persons who have Mild Cognitive Impairment, meaning that the person has consistent problems with memory or another area of cognition but does not have noticeable impairment in daily functioning.

Dementia – Observational Studies – Participants are enrolled in our center to help us answer a number of important research questions regarding early symptoms, risk factors, genetics, imaging, treatment, dietary, and environmental factors possibly related to mild Alzheimer’s disease, Frontotemporal dementia, etc.

Clinical Trial Studies – Clinical trials are carefully controlled studies of new and emerging treatments. These trials bring state-of-the art knowledge to patient diagnosis and care. We have studies investigating new imaging techniques and medications for the treatment of all stages of dementia. These studies may involve specific vitamin therapy, the use of already approved medications for a new use, the use of investigational combinations of medications, as well as, newly developed medications which are not yet FDA approved or available to the public. Some studies focus on treatment of memory and thinking problems, some on behavioral and mood disturbance and others on prevention.

What is involved

Each study specifies the number of visits and procedures required for that study, however, most visits involve the following:

Neuropsychological testing – pencil and paper tasks and puzzles used to measure memory and thinking skills. Feedback is given regarding performance on these measures.

Interviews – questions asked of both participants and study partners to document daily life skills, memory and thinking issues, mood and quality of life. This means that all studies require a partner to attend study visits with the participant. The partner can be anyone who has regular contact with the participant and can accurately report on daily functioning.

Neurological and physical exams – every participant will be examined by a physician who is expert and specializes in neurodegenerative brain disorders.

Biomarkers – a blood sample is taken to investigate risk factors, genetics and to make new discoveries. Other important biomarkers, such as cerebral spinal fluid and through brain autopsy, may also be requested to help researchers learn more about brain functioning.



Other considerations

Costs: There is no financial cost to you or your health insurance provider for participating in the research. While all the laboratory, physician, and neuropsychological testing costs are covered by the study, your regular medical care is still your responsibility.

Benefits: A team of researchers including physicians, nurses and counselors who specialize in dementia care will be available to you and your family to offer suggestions and referrals for coping with cognitive disorders. While no study can promise to offer a direct benefit to each participant, we can assure you that each person who participates does improve our understanding of these disorders and how best to treat them. All studies have specific criteria for participation. It is important to know that you and/or your doctor can withdraw you from a study at any time, even after signing a consent form. You will always be told of any risks involved in the study. Every participant is an important member of the research team.