

Health Trends

Americans Still Believe Myths About Alzheimer's Disease

(NAPSA)—A recent survey suggests that many Americans still regard Alzheimer's disease as a natural consequence of aging. Eighty-seven percent of the 1,000 adults surveyed said they believe the "aging process" can cause or contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

However, while advanced age is indeed a risk factor for the progressive brain disease that robs individuals of their unique memories and personalities, there is nothing *natural* about it—and there are ways to fight back. There are medications available today, such as Reminyl® (galantamine hydrobromide), that can slow the progression of the symptoms, and may allow many patients more quality time with their loved ones.

Alzheimer's disease is a slow progressive disease of the brain. The 10 warning signs include the recent development of problems such as:

1. Difficulty remembering recent events and conversations.
2. Difficulty performing familiar tasks.
3. Problems in finding the correct words to use in conversation.
4. Disorientation regarding time and place.
5. Poor judgment.
6. Difficulty with abstract thinking.
7. A tendency to misplace things.
8. Changes in mood or behavior.
9. Changes in personality.
10. Loss of initiative.

Alzheimer's disease is just one form of dementia. Similar symptoms also can be caused by cerebrovascular disease, particularly one or more small strokes. However, in the survey, 17 percent of



Alzheimer's disease can't be cured, but it can be treated with medication, physical therapy, diet, psychological counseling and activity programs.

American adults were unaware of this fact.

"This survey reinforces the continuing need for education, among both the general public and the medical community, on many aspects of dementia—including its risk factors and available treatments," notes Elizabeth Rimmer, executive director for Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).

The ADI provided expert consultation for the survey, which was funded by Janssen Pharmaceutical Products, L.P., the marketer of Reminyl, the newest available drug for the treatment of mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease. The most common side effects of Reminyl include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia and weight loss. They are usually mild and temporary.

For more information including full prescribing information, visit www.reminyl.com or call 1-866-REMINYL (1-866-736-4695). You also can learn more about Janssen's support program for family caregivers, SharingCare™, at www.sharingcare.com.