



spotlight on health

Study Shows Advanced Age And Residence In Nursing Home Need Not Be Barriers To Treating Alzheimer's Patients

(NAPSA)—Elderly nursing home residents have been thought to be beyond the reach of treatment for cognitive impairments associated with Alzheimer's disease. Study results published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* (JAGS), however, indicate that nursing home residents with Alzheimer's disease may benefit from treatment with ARICEPT® (donepezil hydrochloride tablets).

This six-month multicenter study examined 208 nursing home patients with possible or probable Alzheimer's disease to determine the effectiveness, safety and tolerability of ARICEPT® treatment. ARICEPT® is a clinically proven, once-a-day prescription medication that treats mild to moderate dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease. Clinically validated measures of behavior, cognition and global function were used to evaluate patients. On average, patients in the study had moderate Alzheimer's disease. The study found that ARICEPT® maintained or improved cognition and global function compared with placebo (a sugar pill) and was generally well tolerated in this population despite advanced average patient age of about 85 and high use of other medications such as antidepressants and antipsychotics. Both ARICEPT® and placebo-treated groups showed an improvement in behavior but were not significantly different.

"These findings offer patients, their families and the medical community proof that Alzheimer's disease can be effectively treated and managed in the nursing home setting," said Pierre N. Tariot, MD, study investigator and professor of psychiatry, University of Rochester (New York) School of Medicine.

Dr. Tariot indicated that the effectiveness of ARICEPT® in improving cognition and global

function in nursing home patients was similar to previously reported results in studies of outpatients with mild to moderate dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease.

"In demonstrating that age or residence in a nursing home are not barriers to treatment for Alzheimer's, this study emphasizes the need to raise awareness among nursing home staff of the disease and its symptoms," explained Dr. Tariot. "It is important not to dismiss memory problems as just 'normal aging.' Recognizing symptoms of dementia and getting an early diagnosis give patients a greater chance of benefiting from medical interventions, including treatment with medications such as ARICEPT®."

Weight loss, abdominal pain, nausea, tremor and muscle weakness were reported more frequently in ARICEPT®-treated patients. The occurrence of bradycardia (slow heart-beat) was similar for the two treatment groups. Adverse events were generally mild in intensity, transient and similar to those reported previously in outpatient studies.

Information About Aricept® (donepezil hydrochloride tablets) Treatment

While there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, medical treatments are available to manage symptoms of the disease.

In a progressively degenerative

10 WARNING SIGNS

Individuals exhibiting one or more of the following early warning signs that increasingly affect everyday life should be examined by a physician to determine the cause and, if necessary, begin treatment:

- Memory loss that affects job skills
- Difficulty performing familiar tasks
- Problems with language
- Disorientation to time and place
- Poor or decreased judgment
- Problems with abstract thinking
- Misplacing things
- Changes in mood or behavior
- Changes in personality
- Loss of initiative



disease such as Alzheimer's, improvement, stabilization or a less-than-expected decline over time is considered a positive response to treatment. These types of responses have been observed in patients treated with ARICEPT® in clinical trials. Individual responses to treatment may vary.

ARICEPT® is well tolerated but may not be for everyone. Some people may experience nausea, diarrhea, insomnia, vomiting, muscle cramps, fatigue, or loss of appetite. In studies, these side effects were usually mild and temporary. Some people taking ARICEPT® may experience fainting. People at risk for ulcers should tell their doctors because their condition may get worse.

To date, more than 1.7 million people in the United States have received a prescription for ARICEPT®, contributing to a total of 450 million days of patient use worldwide.

It is estimated that one in ten individuals older than age 65 has Alzheimer's disease. Approximately 4 million Americans are thought to have the disease; by the year 2050, it is estimated that nearly 14 million Americans will suffer from Alzheimer's.

For more information about managing Alzheimer's disease and about ARICEPT®, call the Eisai Inc.- and Pfizer Inc.-sponsored toll-free number, (888) 999-9616, or see www.aricept.com.