

Does Galantamine benefit people with dementia due to Alzheimer's and mild cognitive dementia?

Clinical Question	What is the effect of galantamine in people with probable or possible Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment?
Bottom Line	<p>Galantamine is effective in slowing cognitive decline, clinical global change, function, and behaviour in mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease over three and six months, when compared to placebo. The recommended dose is 16-24 mg daily.</p> <p>One long-term study was terminated early due to an imbalance in deaths between galantamine and placebo groups (more deaths in the placebo arm). In severe Alzheimer's, galantamine improved cognitive function but not daily living activities. A prolonged-release formulation is as effective as the twice-daily regimen. For mild cognitive impairment, galantamine does not improve cognitive outcomes but may reduce the risk of progression to dementia.</p> <p>Gastrointestinal side effects are more common with galantamine. At six months there were more discontinuations in the galantamine group.</p>
Caveat	Applicability of this reviews findings may be limited due to the lack of long-term data beyond 24 months and the sparse evidence regarding the use of galantamine in people with severe dementia.
Context	Alzheimer's disease is characterized by the buildup of beta-amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles, leading to neuron degeneration and reduced acetylcholine synthesis, which causes cognitive decline. The global economic impact of dementia was estimated at \$1.3 trillion in 2020. Galantamine, an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor, is FDA-approved for symptomatic treatment of Alzheimer's in many countries. It works by preventing acetylcholine breakdown, potentially slowing disease progression
Cochrane Systematic Review	Lim AW, Schneider L, Loy C. Galantamine for dementia due to Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2024, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD001747. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001747.pub4. This review contains 21 trials which included 10,990 people.

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Systematic review link:

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001747.pub4/full>