CX516 (Ampalex™), a drug under investigation for treating Alzheimer’s disease

This fact sheet is provided for your information only and does not represent an endorsement of CX516 by the Alzheimer’s Association.

What is CX516?
CX516 (Ampalex™) is a drug under investigation as a potential treatment for the cognitive symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease. Under development by Cortex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., CX516 belongs to a new class of drugs called ampakines.

How is CX516 designed to treat Alzheimer’s?
CX516 may benefit Alzheimer symptoms by enhancing the activity of AMPA receptors, one type of “docking site” on brain cells that attaches the specialized messenger chemical glutamate. At normal concentrations, glutamate attachment to AMPA receptors plays a key role in learning and memory. Subnormal glutamate levels interfere with learning and memory, while excess glutamate “overstimulates” the cell, leading to cell death. Alzheimer’s disease may involve both excesses and deficiencies of glutamate at different times and under different circumstances. CX516 may compensate for decreased glutamate by enhancing the ability of AMPA receptors to respond to available levels.

Where is CX516 in the drug development process?
In Phase I clinical trials, CX516 appeared to be well tolerated and was observed to enhance learning and memory in small groups of healthy young and older adults. In current Phase II clinical trials, CX516 is being tested again for safety and for effectiveness in improving cognitive skills in people with Alzheimer’s disease.

Are there other drugs available to treat symptoms of Alzheimer’s?
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved five drugs specifically to treat symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease — tacrine (Cognex®), donepezil (Aricept®), rivastigimine (Exelon®), galantamine (Reminyl®) and memantine (Namenda®). These drugs have primary mechanisms of action that are different from the mechanism of CX516. Tacrine, donepezil, rivastigimine and galantamine enhance the availability of another messenger chemical and memantine affects the activity of glutamate by attaching to another type of receptor.

There are several other experimental Alzheimer drugs under investigation at study sites nationwide. To obtain information about FDA-approved medications, investigational drugs, or clinical trials currently recruiting participants, please call our 24/7 Nationwide Contact Center Helpline at 1.800.272.3900 or visit our Web site at www.alz.org.

The Alzheimer’s Association, the world leader in Alzheimer research, care and support, is dedicated to finding prevention methods, treatments and an eventual cure for Alzheimer’s.

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Fact sheet updated April 18, 2003

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