

Alzheimer's Disease

Best Web sites on Alzheimer's disease

Description of the topic

Families, educators, and students are often looking for good Internet resources on the general topic of Alzheimer's disease. Identified here are best Web sites on the science of Alzheimer's: what it is and how it progresses. Each site is slightly different. Aimed at promoting an environment of trust for persons with Alzheimer's and those who care for them, the information is current, authoritative, and easy-to-understand.

Alzheimer's Association National Office.

Chicago, IL.

Information geared toward families is available on the home page under *What is Alzheimer's?* Diagnosis, stages, drug and non-drug treatments, an interactive brain tour and information on clinical trials are covered. A link to the *Professionals and Researchers* section takes you to diagnostic procedures, treatment, Medicare and Medicaid, types of care and counseling, and the *Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations for Assisted Living Residences and Nursing Homes*. Noteworthy are the Alzheimer's Association *CareFinder™*, an interactive tool to help families identify the needs and preferences regarding home and residential care, and the Message Boards, a venue for talking with other caregivers. Visitors have access to Latino, African American, Chinese and Korean resources in the *Diversity Toolbox* at http://www.alz.org/professionals_and_researchers_caring_for_diverse_populations.asp. Additional information on all aspects of the disease is available free to download in one-hundred-forty-six publications on the *Publications* page at http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_publications.asp.
<http://www.alz.org>

Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center (ADEAR)

Silver Springs, MD.

Sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, this Web site includes a comprehensive collection of information and publications in English and Spanish free to download or order by phone. Notable are the online consumer materials and fact sheets, a newsletter, and training programs available through the *Publications* link on their home page. A speaker's kit with PowerPoint presentation based on their 60-page booklet, *Unraveling the Mystery*, contains both basic and technical data on the scientific and social aspects of Alzheimer's. A database on clinical trials and a literature search tool are also available on the home page.
<http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/default.htm>

Alzheimer Research Forum.

Waltham, MA.

About Alzheimer's Disease offers a description of the disease, including prevalence and prognosis data, areas in the brain affected, and the changes that characterize Alzheimer's disease. Linked to this page is an Alzheimer FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) and an extensive section on disease management. Notable are the *Tests and Drugs* and *Therapies* sections. Information is geared primarily toward health care professionals and researchers, but patients and family caregivers will also benefit. Noteworthy is the *Early-Onset Familial* section on early onset familial Alzheimer's (eFAD). It includes articles on genetics, diagnosis, research, news, and interviews.

<http://www.alzforum.org/dis/abo/default.asp>

AARP (American Association of Retired Persons).
Washington, DC.

Contains information and services on a broad array of topics for the general public and paid members age 50 and older. General interest areas include family, money, travel, technology, and legislation. Specific areas under the *Health* tab cover prescription drugs, Medicare, physical activity, brain health, insurance, health aids, and information on Alzheimer's at

<http://www.healthwise.net/aarp/Content/StdDocument.aspx?DOCHWID=hw136623>. Search "alzheimer's" in the Search box on any page to find additional articles from the AARP Bulletin and various web pages.

<http://www.aarp.org>

eMedicine.com.

Omaha, NE.

eMedicine.com publishes information for two audiences. For consumers, *Alzheimer's Disease Overview* highlights the biological characteristics of Alzheimer's, demographic data, the general course of the disease, and costs to society. Additional links point to two and four-page articles on causes, symptoms, advice on when to seek medical attention, tests, treatments, and steps to take after the diagnosis. Its counterpart for healthcare professionals, *Alzheimer's Disease*, provides clinical characteristics, differential diagnosis including workup, treatment, and follow-up protocols.

For consumer information visit <http://www.emedicinehealth.com/articles/39500-1.asp>. For healthcare information visit <http://www.emedicine.com/neuro/topic13.htm>.

Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research.

New York, NY.

Understanding Alzheimer's is divided into four sections: Alzheimer's disease information, symptoms and early signs, diagnosis, and treatment. Answers to typical questions asked by families about the disease and its management are included. Selected vocabulary is hyperlinked to a glossary. The information is geared toward someone wanting a brief but thorough introduction to Alzheimer's.

<http://www.alzinfo.org/understanding>

Health on the Net Foundation (HON)

Geneva, Switzerland.

The *Alzheimer's Disease* portal guides consumers and medical professionals to reliable sources of healthcare information on the Internet. The page provides an extensive hyperlinked hierarchy of dementia and related information. Web resources for Alzheimer's disease, scientific articles, clinical trials, medical images, medical news, Alzheimer conferences, and links to information in French, German, Spanish, and Portuguese are included. To be certified by HON, a Web site must apply for registration. If accepted, it must comply with all the principles in the HONcode and display the HONcode logo of accreditation.

<http://wolfgang.hcuge.ch/HONselect/Selection/C10.228.140.380.100.html>

Mayo Clinic.

Rochester, MN.

Alzheimer's Disease links to an array of topics including signs and symptoms, causes, risk factors, screening and diagnosis, complications, treatment, prevention, and coping. Notable are the related links in each section to additional and practical medical and caregiving articles.

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/alzheimers-disease/DS00161>

National Library of Medicine – MedlinePlus.
Bethesda, MD.

Alzheimer's Disease includes information from numerous government agencies and nonprofit organizations that have prepared overviews of the disease. Additionally, it links to resources on symptoms and diagnosis, treatment, disease management, prevention and screening, nutrition, finances, coping, research, clinical trials, genetics, statistics, and materials in other languages. The Web page also provides a path to news agencies for recent news on Alzheimer's and materials specifically geared toward children and teens. A sidebar contains Web addresses dedicated to caregivers, memory, the brain, and senior health.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/alzheimersdisease.html>

NIH Senior Health – Alzheimer's Disease.
Bethesda, MD.

The National Institutes of Health has put together a Web site on Alzheimer's disease for computer savvy seniors. Viewing options such as font resize, contrast, speech capability, and printer friendly versions are available. The main sections include a definition of Alzheimer's disease, causes and risks, symptoms and diagnosis, treatments and research, and frequently asked questions.

<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/alzheimersdisease/toc.html>