

# The Medical Letter<sup>®</sup>

on Drugs and Therapeutics

## AMYLOID-DIRECTED ANTIBODIES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Updated September 17, 2025

The Medical Letter<sup>®</sup>

**Because the source matters.**

To support more content like this, please consider making a [donation](#) or becoming a [subscriber](#).

The Medical Letter is a nonprofit organization\* that relies solely on subscription fees and donations to support our mission of providing objective, practical, and timely information on drugs and therapeutics.

Our work relies on support from people like you who value credible, unbiased drug information that is free of any commercial interest.

For more information visit our [website](#) or call Customer Service at: 800-211-2769

\*The Medical Letter is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.  
Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

AMYLOID-DIRECTED ANTIBODIES FOR ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Donanemab<br>(Kisunla)                                                                                               | Lecanemab<br>(Leqembi, Leqembi Iqlik)                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Manufacturer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Lilly                                                                                                                | Eisai/Biogen                                                                                                                                                                         |
| FDA-Approved Indication                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Treatment of Alzheimer’s disease; should only be started in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Efficacy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Modestly slowed cognitive decline in patients with early Alzheimer’s disease                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Formulations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 350 mg/20 mL single-dose vials                                                                                       | 500 mg/5 mL, 200 mg/2mL single-dose vials<br>360 mg/mL single-dose prefilled autoinjector                                                                                            |
| Dosage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 350 mg x 1, then 700 mg at week 4, then 1050 mg at week 8, then 1400 mg every 4 weeks by IV infusion over 30 minutes | Initial: 10 mg/kg once every 2 weeks by IV infusion over 1 hour x 18 months<br><br>Maintenance: 10 mg/kg once every 2 or 4 weeks by IV infusion over 1 hour or 360 mg SC once weekly |
| Common Adverse Effects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA; cerebral edema, microhemorrhages, superficial siderosis)                |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| MRI Monitoring for ARIA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Before the 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> infusions                         | Before the 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> infusions                                                                                        |
| Treatment Duration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | May be stopped after amyloid plaques on PET imaging are reduced to minimal levels                                    | Not determined by amyloid plaque response                                                                                                                                            |
| Cost/Year*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$36,600                                                                                                             | \$26,500 (IV every 2 weeks)<br>\$13,250 (IV every 4 weeks)<br>\$19,500 (SQ once weekly)                                                                                              |
| * Approximate WAC (for a 70-kg patient). WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly, September 5, 2025. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2025. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy. |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      |