



Hi everyone,

## Light at the end of the Tunnel?

Until recently research into a cure for Alzheimer's disease – the most common form of dementia – has proved fruitless and treatments limited. Currently, the only medications that are routinely prescribed for mild to moderate Alzheimer's symptoms are Galantamine, Rivastigmine, and Donepezil. These drugs work by helping to reduce or control some cognitive and behavioural symptoms, but they are not always suitable for all patients.

But, at last, a breakthrough has been achieved. Two new drugs have been announced. Lecanemab, as having been fully approved in the US for the treatment of early Alzheimer's disease. And Donanemab, which successfully completed its full-scale trials. Rapid approval is expected for their use in the UK. The drugs are claimed to offer up to a 30% slowing of the progression of the disease by targeting and removing amyloid, a sticky protein which forms toxic clumps in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Without intervention, amyloid contributes to cognitive decline by slowly destroying the brain's neurons over time. What makes this breakthrough really special and exciting is that, for the first time, we have the prospect of attacking the **cause** of the disease and not just **treating** some of its symptoms.

However, on a note of caution, the benefits of these drugs have been shown only in the early stages of the illness, and there can be serious side-effects in some patients. Also, even once fully approved, there will still be a long waiting time before they can be widely prescribed.

Finally, I want to thank all who generously give their time and donations – You are what makes this project work. Also, do remember if you need transport to a medically related appointment, or might like to borrow a wheelchair, please do not hesitate to ask.

With all my best wishes,

Lynden Jackson

[www.the-debenham-project.org.uk](http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk) ; 01728 862003