African-Americans have a greater risk for Alzheimer disease

What are the study facts?

- Study participation is voluntary.
- Joining the study will not affect your healthcare or insurance.
- All information is confidential.
- There is no cost to the family.
- A participant may withdraw from the study at any time.
- Travel to the research center is not required.
- Although we are unable to provide individual results to families, we do send out periodic newsletters about research progress to participants.

How do I join the study?

Call the Alzheimer Disease Study Coordinator; toll free at: 1-877-686-6444

For additional information, please visit our website: http://www.hhig.org

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10 warning signs of Alzheimer disease

- Recent memory loss that affects job skills
- Difficulty remembering appointments
- Difficulty performing daily tasks
- Having trouble finding the right words to use when speaking
- Disorientation or feeling lost in familiar surroundings
- Poor or decreased judgment
- Problems with abstract thinking
- Misplacing objects
- Changes in mood or behavior
- Changes in personality

See a doctor if you recognize warning signs in yourself or a loved one. Finding out about Alzheimer disease as early as possible is an important step in getting the right medical care and treatment!

For more information:

Call the Alzheimer Study Coordinator
Toll free: 1-877-686-6444

Help us find the answers

Participate in a research study in the African-American community

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**What is Alzheimer disease?**

Alzheimer disease affects approximately five million people in the United States and is the most common form of severe memory loss (dementia). Alzheimer disease destroys parts of the brain that control memory, thinking, language and judgment. Many African-Americans often go undiagnosed with Alzheimer disease and, therefore, go untreated. Many people think that problems with memory are natural and normal aspects of aging. Some people even refer to Alzheimer disease as "old-timers" disease. However, dementia is not a normal part of aging.

The cause of Alzheimer disease is not known. Although treatments are available, there is no cure for Alzheimer disease. The brain damage caused by Alzheimer disease is irreversible and destroys an individual’s ability to remember the names and faces of family members. Experts now recognize severe memory loss as a symptom of serious illness. Research studies show that individuals who have a relative with Alzheimer disease have a much greater chance of developing the disease.

**Why is this study important to you?**

African-Americans are 40 percent less likely to be properly diagnosed and treated, and are more likely to develop late-onset Alzheimer disease than whites. In addition, because African-Americans suffer from diseases of the heart, brain and blood vessels more than whites, there is a possible link between these health conditions and the development of Alzheimer disease. By working with families affected by Alzheimer disease, researchers at the HIIG aim to better understand the genetic basis of the disease.

Researchers hope to reduce the risk factors for developing Alzheimer disease and reverse the growing trend of Alzheimer disease among all people; especially among African-Americans who are the most burdened by this debilitating disease. By participating in research studies, African-Americans can help make a great contribution into this knowledge; so that when genetic causes of the disease start to produce potential treatments for the disease, African-Americans will stand in a position to benefit from these ground-breaking discoveries.

**What do participants do?**

- Read and sign a consent form.
- Give family and medical history.
- Answer a short environmental risk factor questionnaire.
- Do a test of memory, thinking, mood and concentration.
- Complete a brief neurological examination.
- Give permission to review the medical records of the individual with memory and thinking problems.
- Provide a blood sample.

**Who can join the study?**

1. Individuals with a diagnosis of dementia of the Alzheimer’s type.
2. Families that have 2 or more family members with Alzheimer disease, both of whom are willing to participate in the study, and any of their brothers and sisters who do not have Alzheimer disease and are willing to participate.
3. The spouse of an individual with Alzheimer disease, or anyone over the age of 65 without memory problems can participate as a ‘control’ in our comparison group for the study.