



Community and Mental Health Services

21 February 2024

# **News**

## Early blood test to predict dementia is step closer as biological markers identified

Researchers have taken a major step towards a blood test that can predict the risk of dementia more than a decade before the condition is formally diagnosed in patients. Hopes for the test were raised after scientists discovered biological markers for the condition in blood samples collected from more than 50,000 healthy volunteers enrolled in the UK Biobank project. Analysis of the blood identified patterns of four proteins that predicted the onset of dementia in general, and Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia specifically, in older age. The research is published in Nature Aging.

## Viagra may help to lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease, study finds

Research by UCL, which examined medical records of 260,000 men with erectile dysfunction, has provided 'food for thought'. The research is published in the journal Neurology.

### Vision problems could be early warning sign of Alzheimer's: Study

A new study suggests that Alzheimer's disease possibly begins to manifest in some patients as a disease that causes vision problems and is often overlooked. But more awareness could lead to an early Alzheimer's diagnosis. The study published by <a href="mailto:the Lancet">the Lancet</a>, found that 94% of patients diagnosed with <a href="Posterior Cortical Atrophy">Posterior Cortical Atrophy</a>, or PCA, a neurodegenerative condition that impairs one's vision and mainly affects the occipital and parietal cortex, also had Alzheimer's.

NHS not ready for new Alzheimer's drugs lecanemab and donanemab, warns charity
Alzheimer's patients could lose out on two groundbreaking new drugs because the NHS is

unprepared, a leading charity has told BBC Panorama.

# **Blogs**

### Sex differences in dementia risk and risk factors

This blog critiques this individual participant meta-analysis on sex differences in dementia risk and risk factors.

### Young, old and marvellous: how a care home built a nursery - and everyone thrived

At Belong Chester, the older residents and young children have the chance to spend each day together, and it's led to big improvements in all their lives. What's the secret?

## **Event**

## **Liverpool Dementia Information Day**

Have you been diagnosed with Dementia or caring for someone with the condition? Then please come along to Central Library on 14th March for a full day of help and advice and some wonderful performances. 10am-5pm.









