

# Aducanumab drug

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**In news-** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Biogen's aducanumab, the first drug to target an underlying cause of Alzheimer's disease.

## **About the drug-**

- The drug is to be sold under the **brand Aduhelm**.
- It is the **first new approval of an Alzheimer's drug since 2003** and the **only treatment designed** to slow progression of Alzheimer's disease.
- Aduhelm is designed to **target amyloid beta, a protein that forms sticky deposits or plaques in the brains of patients** with Alzheimer's disease.
- Amyloid is thought to begin forming years before any signs of memory loss appear, thus making treatment as early as possible most likely to provide benefit.
- The drug was tested in patients in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's but was not tested in people who had progressed to moderate **dementia**.
- Alzheimer's is estimated to account for at least 60% of dementia, which involves declines in memory, reasoning or thinking skills and basic ability to function.
- Aduhelm is given as a **monthly intravenous infusion**.