

Alzheimer's Disease Blood Test

Ptau 217

Educational Handout

What is the test?

A simple blood test that measures the levels of a protein called p-tau217. A level above a certain threshold may indicate a higher likelihood of amyloid plaques in the brain, one of the hallmark changes associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Why might my clinician order it?

This blood test may be helpful for individuals experiencing memory or thinking changes that are greater than what would be expected with normal aging and who want to better understand whether Alzheimer's disease may be contributing to their symptoms.

Is this test right for me?

This test may be recommended if:

- You or a loved one has noticed persistent memory or thinking changes that have been evaluated by a clinician and continue despite addressing potentially reversible causes, such as hearing loss or depression.
- You have been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or dementia and would like to better understand whether Alzheimer's disease is an underlying cause.

This test is not appropriate if:

- You have occasional forgetfulness associated with normal aging.
- You do not have memory concerns but are curious about your future risk for Alzheimer's disease.
- You are in good health and seeking routine screening.

What do my test results mean?

Result	What It Suggests	Next Steps
Not Elevated	Alzheimer's disease is very unlikely (97% accuracy)	Discuss other possible causes of memory or thinking concerns with your clinician.
Intermediate	Unclear whether Alzheimer's disease is present	Your clinician may recommend repeat testing or additional diagnostic evaluations.
Elevated	Alzheimer's disease is likely (93% accuracy)	Your clinician may discuss further testing and treatment options.

Your clinician will interpret these results in the context of your medical history, examination, and any additional testing.



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Keep in Mind

- This blood test is one piece of the diagnostic puzzle.
- About 10-15% of patients may receive an intermediate result.
- False positives and false negatives can occur, and some medical conditions may affect test results.
- Many people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease also have other conditions that contribute to memory and thinking changes.

Looking for Answers About Memory Changes?

The specialists at the **Saint Alphonsus Memory Center** provide comprehensive evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment for memory and cognitive concerns. If you or a loved one are experiencing changes in memory or thinking, we can help determine whether this blood test may be an appropriate part of your care plan.

To learn more about this testing option, schedule an appointment with one of our specialists at the Saint Alphonsus Memory Center.

Phone: [\(208\) 302-5400](tel:(208)302-5400)

Website: <https://www.saintalphonsus.org/services/memory-center>

QR Code:



Early evaluation can provide clarity, guide treatment decisions, and help you plan for the future.



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