

Viewpoint: Why it's too soon to predict the arrival date for an Alzheimer's cure

A new study has inspired headlines claiming a cure for Alzheimer's disease could be available within six years – but are we genuinely on the verge of an effective treatment?

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[Many researchers], including those behind the current study, assert that [the brain's] [oligomers](#) – even smaller molecules that occur naturally in neurons and similar – that are causing the damage, and that the tangles and [amyloid] plaques are consequences of this. Ergo, removing those larger molecular deposits is tantamount to clearing the dead fish away from the town's water supply: they're not helping matters, but they're clearly not what's poisoning it. This new study suggests we could have drugs that tackle the source, not the downstream effects.

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There's also the questionable use of the term "cure" in the many reports around this. Even if the drug works 100% effectively as hoped, the damage to the brain inflicted by Alzheimer's and similar diseases is widespread.

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Even if we could somehow replace the lost brain cells in the damaged regions (which we can't), to claim a full "cure", we'd need to somehow shape and connect them so they're exactly as they were.

Still, any progress is good at this juncture. But are we close to a cure for Alzheimer's? As trite as it may be to end on such a scientific cliché, sometimes it's just the truth: further research is needed.

Read full, original post: [Are we really on the brink of a cure for Alzheimer's?](#)