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June 2022

### Alzheimer's: The Invisible Second Victim

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### **Recommended Citation**

Alberty, Emma, "Alzheimer's: The Invisible Second Victim" (2022). *Undergraduate Research Symposium*. 123.

Available at: https://irl.umsl.edu/urs/123

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# Alzheimer's: The Invisible Second Victim Emma Alberty | Advisor: Rob Wilson, Ph.D. | Honors College

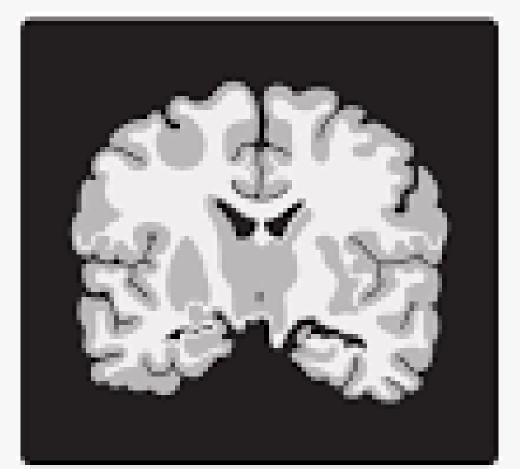
# Introduction:

- Alzheimer's Disease or (AD) is a  $\bullet$ progressive illness that destroys memories of those affected.
- Family members are the most common home caregivers for Alzheimer's patients.
- Family members must manage the treatment of the patient while also managing their own emotions towards the diagnosis of a loved one with AD.

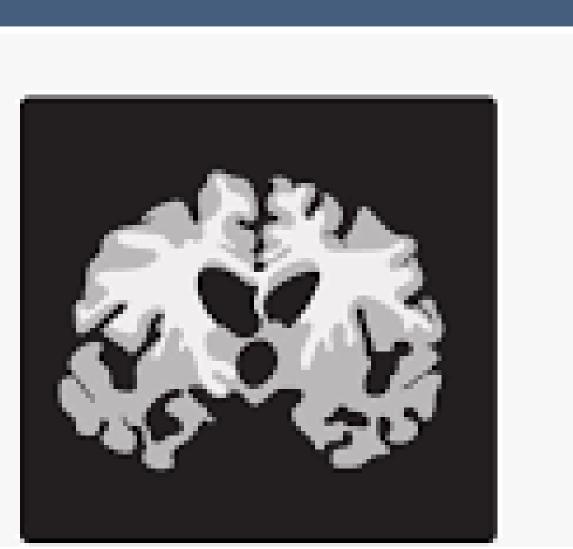
## Sources:

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Chesla, Catherine, Ida Martinson, and Marilou Muwaswes. "Continuities and Discontinuities in Family Members' Relationships with Alzheimer's Patients." Family Relations 43, no. 1 (1994): 3–9.



Normal Brain



Advanced Alzheimer's



Alzheimer's Disease effects many family dynamics.

# Research Findings:

- Providing Long-term care can lead to physical aliments.
- Decisions made by the family can emotionally draining
- Strong caregiver-patient relationships often have strong leve of mutuality and reciprocity.
- The average annual cost of a nursing the second s home stay was \$92,738 and the tot average cost of dementia was found to be \$287,038
- AD currently affects over five million American families.
- Over 11 million Americans provide unpaid care for those with AD.
- These caregivers provided over 16 billion hours of unpaid care.



	Conclusion
	• The effects of AD on family members is often overlooked and ignored by the research of the
	<ul> <li>disease itself.</li> <li>There is still no cure for Alzheimer's</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The progressive nature of Alzheimer's means that it can las anywhere from three to twenty years, meaning the caregiver may</li> </ul>
	have to provide care for up to twenty years.
Эe	<ul> <li>Family is often at risk of social isolation</li> <li>Counseling can help families</li> </ul>
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Many caregivers are the spouse of the patient with AD

