

# Developing decision support and communication tools for blood biomarkers in primary care populations

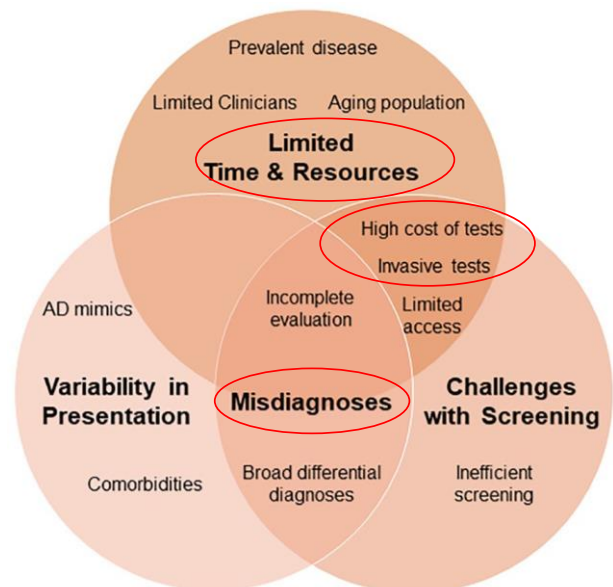
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## Challenges to dementia diagnosis

- Lack of specialist capacity: 85% of initial diagnoses made in primary care settings
- >50% of dementia diagnoses delayed or never made
- Disparities in rural areas and among underrepresented populations (dx later and/or misdiagnosis)

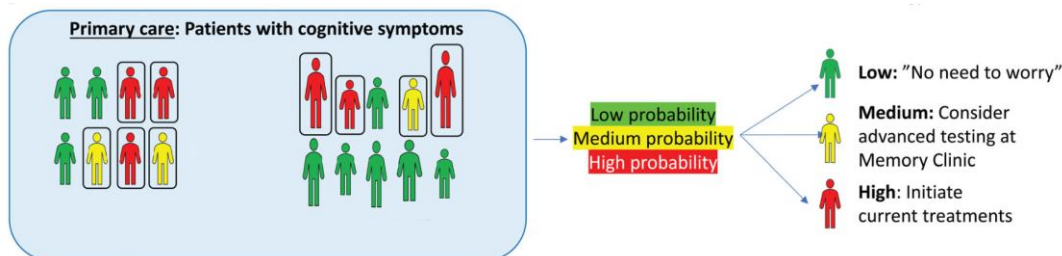


Journal of Primary Care & Community Health 2022(13)1-7; Alzheimer's Dement 2019;15:1402-11; BMC Primary Care 2023(24)233; Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord 2009;23(4):306-14; Alzheimer's Dement 2025; Kramer

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## Blood biomarker testing: opportunities

- Accurate and non-invasive
- Cost effective and broadly accessible
- Aligns with new biological diagnostic criteria



Alzheimer's Dement. 2022;18:2669–2686

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## Clinical use: knowledge gaps

- Prospective validation in clinical settings & effect on outcomes
- Medical implementation (correct population, interpretation)
- **Clinical decision-making & communication**
  - Integrating blood tests into workflow
  - Shared decision-making with patients and families about potential benefits, harms, and limitations of testing
  - Disclosing results and psychological impact
  - Prognosis & longitudinal care



Alzheimers Dement 2019;15:1402-11; BMC Primary Care (2023) 24:233

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## Research Goals

- 1) Understand decision-making processes and primary care needs (qualitative analysis of clinic visits about cognitive complaints)
- 2) Develop & pilot test tools in focus groups to support communication and shared decision-making for PCPs and diverse groups of patients

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## Current and Future work

- Develop decision tool for primary care providers to inform use of blood biomarker test at UW Health
- Establish relationships outside of UW Health for pilot testing of tool in other clinic settings (in primary care vs outside of primary care)
- Longer term, identify additional areas in care delivery in which support is needed to optimize use of AD blood biomarkers in primary care

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# Thank you!

Questions?

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