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# HUPERZINE to Treat Alzheimer's Disease

**A New Multi-Center Clinical Trial  
Supported by the National Institute on  
Aging/AD Cooperative Study**

- 24-week study to test the effectiveness of Huperzine A, a natural/herbal cholinesterase inhibitor, in treating the symptoms of AD
- May be more effective in treating mild to moderate AD than current medications
- All participants receiving placebo will receive huperzine A for the last 8 weeks of this study and access to a 6 months' free supply by participating in a planned extension study.

**Background:** Huperzine A, a natural cholinesterase inhibitor derived from the Chinese herb *Huperzia serrata*, has both neuroprotective and antioxidant properties. Studies suggest that huperzine A may be *more effective and safer* than the 4 AchE inhibitors currently used in the U.S. to treat AD (tacrine, donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine). Currently available in the U.S. as a nutraceutical.

**Study Description:** 24-week, phase II trial to evaluate the effect of huperzine A on treating the symptoms of AD in people with this disorder; randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled.

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**The Huperzine/AD Study seeks participants who:**

- Have **mild to moderate AD**
- Are **not** currently taking a **cholinesterase inhibitor**
- Are age **55 or older**
- Speak English or Spanish
- Have a study partner (someone to accompany participant to all clinic visits and answer questions about him/her).

**Design:** 150 participants will be randomly assigned to three equal groups: 1) 200µg bid huperzine A, 2) 400µg bid huperzine A, and 3) placebo. *All subjects* will receive huperzine A during the last 8 weeks of the 24-week trial. An open-label extension study is planned and will provide huperzine A to all participants for at least an additional 6 months.

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**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE COOPERATIVE STUDY**