

Differences between symptomatic and disease-modifying treatments in AD

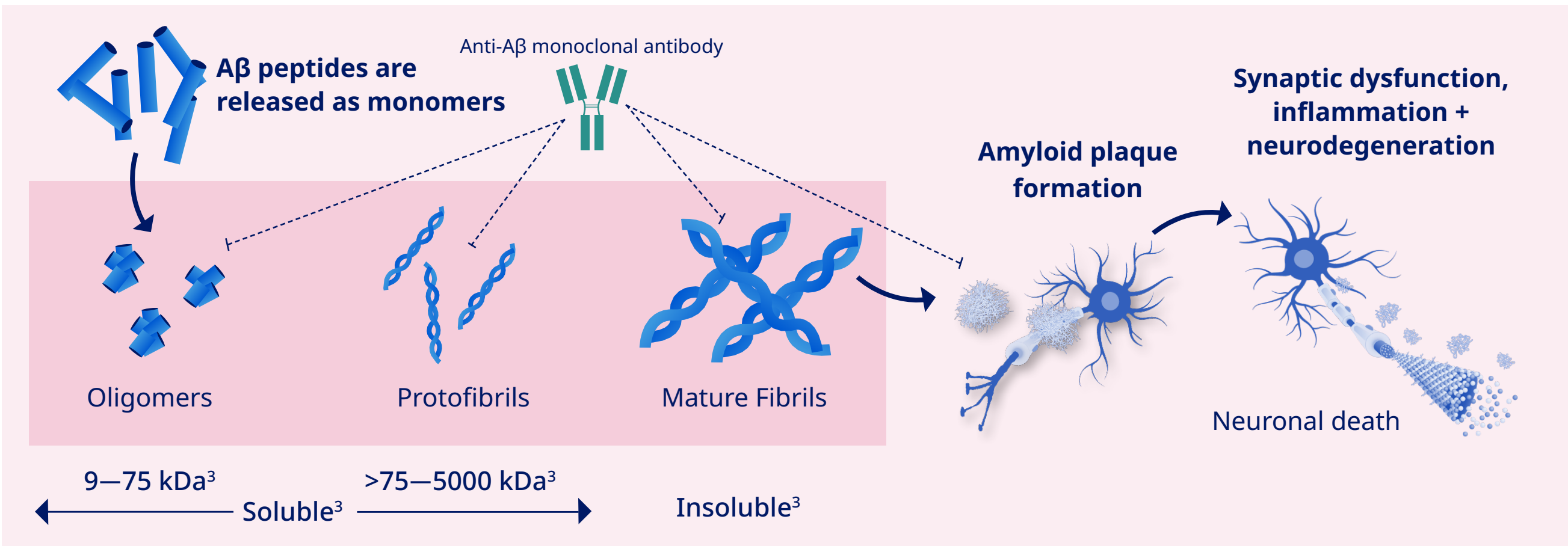


Symptomatic treatments

- Improve cognitive and behavioral symptoms **without altering** the underlying disease¹
- Examples of cognitive-enhancing agents:
 - AChE inhibitors and NMDA receptor antagonist¹

Disease-modifying treatments (DMTs)

- Do not treat symptoms, but target the **underlying cause of disease** to slow cognitive decline^{1,2}
- Examples of DMTs:
 - Anti-A β mAbs target several different forms of A β —either soluble oligomers and protofibrils, or insoluble fibrils and plaques—and stimulate its immune clearance²



Symptomatic treatments can improve quality of life in people with AD¹

Symptomatic treatment for management of cognitive and behavioral symptoms of AD can:

Recent advances in symptomatic treatments aim to address major mental disorders and neuropsychiatric symptoms in AD^{1,4}:



In 2023, the 1st FDA-approved drug to treat any neuropsychiatric symptom in AD was approved^{5,6}

While symptomatic treatments help manage cognition and behaviour,¹ emerging DMTs are key to slowing AD progression.² However, new treatments are needed to address residual symptoms and other elements of AD pathology.¹

A β , amyloid beta; AChE, acetylcholinesterase; AD, Alzheimer's disease; DMT, disease-modifying therapy; FDA, US Food and Drug Administration; mAb, monoclonal antibody; NMDA, N-methyl-D-aspartate.
1. Cummings J. Mol Neurodegener. 2021;16(1):2; 2. Beveridge J et al., Expert Opin Emerg Drugs. 2024;29(1):35-43; 3. Park KW. Nucl Med Mol Imaging. 2024;58(4):227-36; 4. Lee D et al. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2024;25(10):105173; 5. Zhang K, Cummings J. Expert Rev Neurother. 2025;25(1):5-13; 6. FDA Approves First Drug to Treat Agitation Symptoms Associated with Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease. FDA. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-drug-treat-agitation-symptoms-associated-dementia-due-alzheimers-disease>. 2023. Accessed March 2025.