



My News



Today's Paper

Local

Queensland

National

World

Opinion

Business

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Sport

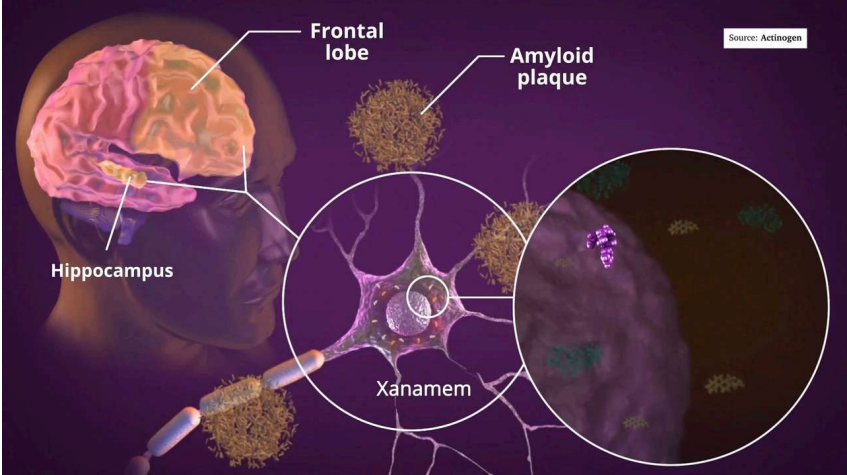


Health

Conditions

Dementia

Alzheimer's disease: World Health



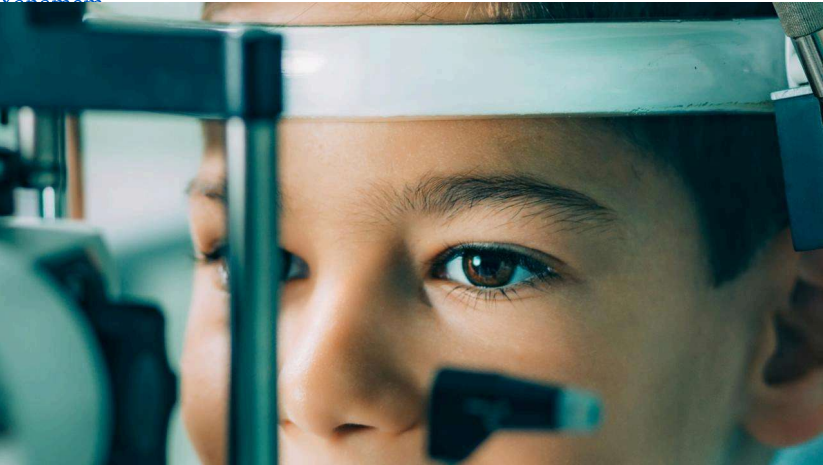
A once-a-day pill that targets the production of the stress hormone cortisol in the brain has the potential to be the “holy grail” in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, Australian researchers say. Xanamem, a new therapy...

A once-a-day pill that could be the “holy grail” in the treatment of Alzheimer’s

Join the conversation (15 Comments)

Australian firm behind the potential wonder drug.

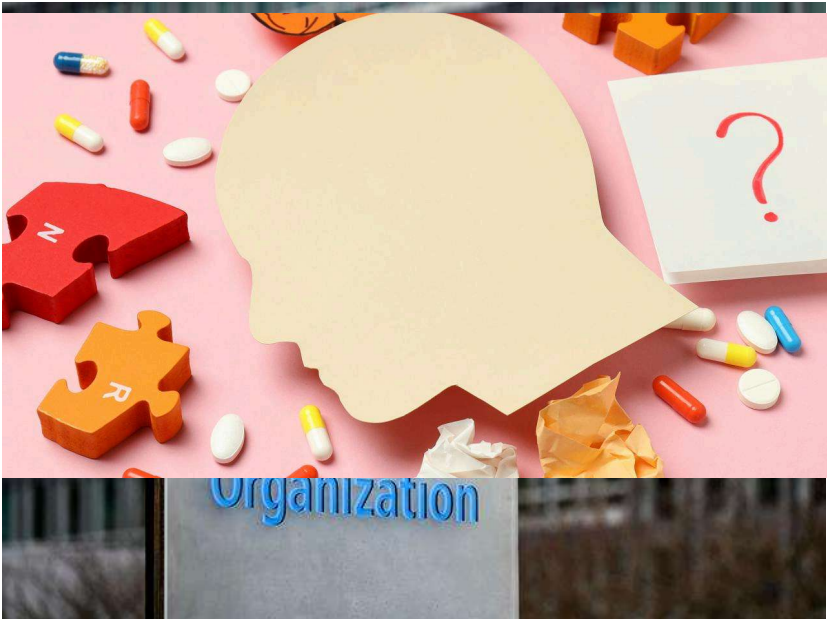
The World Health Organisation has granted Actinogen Medical the nonproprietary name, or generic name, ‘emestedastat’ for [its new drug](#) Xanamem.



Dementia

How a change in your eye can detect dementia and diabetes

They may be the windows to the soul but it’s now been found eyes can provide crucial insight into the brain, which can potentially help detect diseases like dementia, multiple sclerosis and diabetes.



Xanemem has been granted a nonproprietary name by the World Health Organisation. Picture: AFP)

Xanemem helps slow down the course of Alzheimer’s disease and address cognitive decline. [Read More](#)



Business
SA’s Izzi Butt Doyle claims Australian half-marathon record



Business
US tariff risk to SA farmers



EXCLUSIVE SA News
Fraud charges dropped against Adelaide former rich-lister

Xanemem is specifically designed to prevent the excess production of cortisol in the areas of the brain that are most affected by Alzheimer’s disease.

This potential could extend to other dementias such as Lewy-Body disease, frontotemporal dementia, and dementia associated with Parkinson’s disease.



SA News
Alleged knife-wielding teen, 14, charged over armed robbery



Horse Racing
Magic draw for Perry as Millennium fancies draw wide




Golf
LIV’s shock opening as Smith shuts down Aussie hopes

Trending now

Cairns

Teen was on probation for killing cat before bashing murder



Read More

How Xa works

Xanamem is a once-a-day pill that targets the production of the stress hormone cortisol in the brain, helping to slow down the course of Alzheimer's disease and address cognitive decline.

Cortisol is produced in the nerve cells

LIVE

Amyloid plaque

Excess cortisol is associated with memory loss, amyloid plaques and neurodegeneration - the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease.

Xanamem is designed to prevent the excess production of cortisol in the frontal lobe and hippocampus - the areas of the brain that are most affected by Alzheimer's disease.

Follow

Don't have an account? Sign up here

Added to My News.

Frontal lobe

Hippocampus

This could extend to other dementias such as Lewy-Body disease, frontotemporal dementia, and dementia associated with Parkinson's disease.

Source: Actinogen Medical.

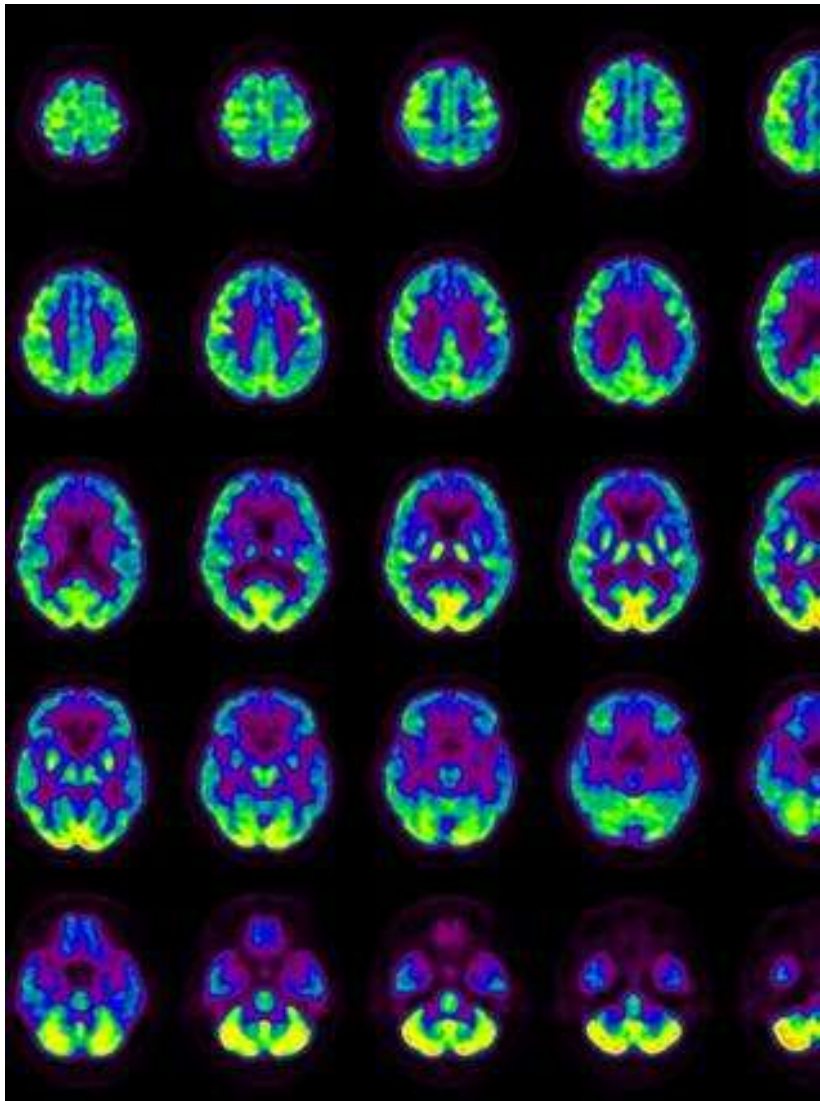
Dr Gourlay said the firm's nod from the WHO was "a great Australian story".

"The WHO has a naming process where you apply and they give you a name, it's not the brand name, it's the name that will always be used for that particular drug," he said.

"What's unique about our situation is that in giving us the new name, emestedastat, the committee recognised that this is the first of its class to ever be named in this way."



Dr Steven Gourlay is the CEO of Actinogen Medical. Picture: Supplied



PET scan images show the cortisol-producing enzyme in the brain, which the Xanemem pill targets.

Dr Gourlay said Actinogen was bringing “a truly novel and innovative therapy” to patients and the hope was that the drug would be applicable not just to Alzheimer’s but to other types of dementia as well as potentially Parkinson’s, depression and other related psychiatric illnesses.

Alzheimer’s disease, which results in worsening symptoms over a number of years, affected 411,100 Australians in 2023, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates.

Associate Professor Michael Woodward AM, Dementia Australia’s Honorary Medical Adviser, said Xanemem “may offer stabilisation and hopefully a slower decline for people living with dementia”.

Associate Professor Woodward said anything that could safely and conveniently assist to reduce the impact of Alzheimer’s disease was “welcome progress”.

“Xanemem has solid data from early-stage studies showing that it is effective,” he said.

“It would certainly be welcomed to have a new class of orally active drug that helps people living with dementia manage their condition.”

For anyone who is impacted by dementia, has questions or needs advice, the National Dementia Helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 100 500 or visit dementia.org.au for email or live chat options.

More Coverage



‘Epidemic’: New DIY Aussie game-changing STI test



‘Worried for her’: Fears for Bianca Censori after Grammys

Originally published as [Alzheimer’s disease: World Health Organisation win for Actinogen Medical drug Xanamem](#)

Membership

Subscription packages
Group/Corporate Subscriptions
The Cairns Post App
Today's Paper
Newsletters
Rewards

About Us

About us
Meet the team
Job Opportunities
Code of Conduct
Subscription FAQs
Subscription terms
Financial Hardship Policy

Contact Us

Help & Support
FAQs
Standards of practice
Letter to the Editor
Licensing & Reprints
Advertise with us

Our News Network

Herald Sun
The Daily Telegraph
The Courier Mail
The Advertiser
news.com.au
The Australian
The Mercury
Geelong Advertiser
Gold Coast Bulletin
Townsville Bulletin
The Chronicle
NT News
The Weekly Times
CODE Sports

Our Partners

Buy Search Sell Classifieds
Foxsports
Foxtel
Hipages
Kayo
My Tributes
Punters
odds.com.au
racenet.com.au
Sky News
Coupons

Our Apps



A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. Find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out. Sometimes our articles will try to help you find the right product at the right price. We may receive payment from third parties for publishing this content or when you make a purchase through the links on our sites.