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**Subject:** APA Headlines: Men With Alzheimer's May Have Atypical Symptoms, May Be Younger At Diagnosis, Research Suggests  
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

July 27, 2016

## Leading The News

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### Men With Alzheimer's May Have Atypical Symptoms, May Be Younger At Diagnosis, Research Suggests.

The [ABC News](#) (7/26, Mohan-Sivasankar) website reports that "men with Alzheimer's" may have "atypical symptoms" and may be "younger at diagnosis," research suggests. What's more, physicians "may be able to screen men for Alzheimer's at even younger ages," investigators posit. The findings of the 1,606-brain study were presented July 26 at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2016.

In "Social Issues," the [Washington Post](#) (7/26, Bahrapour) reports that the study "also found that the disease attacks different areas of the brain in men and women." In males, Alzheimer's "spreads more quickly and more commonly attacks the cortex, which is responsible for behavior, language, and motor skills," whereas in females, "the spread is slower and the disease more typically attacks the hippocampus, leading to memory problems." Also

covering the story are the [Florida Times-Union](#) (7/26, Patton), [HealthDay](#) (7/26, Reinberg), and the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (7/26, Donnelly).

## Psychiatric News Alert



[Quetiapine Appears Effective as Monotherapy for PTSD, Study Shows](#)

[Greater Pain Found to Increase Risk of Opioid Use Disorder](#)

Nominations Due Aug. 1 for APA Geriatric Psychiatry Awards

[Weinberg Memorial Award in Geriatric Psychiatry](#) honors a psychiatrist who has demonstrated special leadership or has done outstanding work in clinical practice, training, or research into geriatric psychiatry. [Learn more.](#)

[Hartford-Jeste Award for Future Leaders in Geriatric Psychiatry](#) recognizes an early-career geriatric psychiatrist who has made noteworthy contributions to geriatric psychiatry through excellence in research, teaching, clinical practice, and community service and has demonstrated the potential to develop into a leader in the field. [Learn more](#)



## Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

**Small Study Examines Positive Effects Of Dementia Diagnosis.**

[HealthDay](#) (7/26, Preidt) reports that for some people, a dementia diagnosis may “have some positive effects.” The 48-participant study revealed that some people who receive a diagnosis of dementia experience “appreciation and acceptance of life; less concern about failure; self-reflection, tolerance of others, and courage to face problems in life; stronger relationships and new opportunities to meet people.” The findings were scheduled for presentation at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference.

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## Study Suggests A Type Of Computer Game Could Lower Risk Of Dementia.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Love) reports a new study indicates a type of computer game “could decrease the risk of symptoms of dementia by almost half, compared to not having any brain training at all.” The findings are still being reviewed, so they are considered preliminary. This type of game is known as “a speed-of-processing task,” which is “one of three types of cognitive training that 2800 people took part in during The Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly (ACTIVE) study, a randomized longitudinal study funded by NIH” in 2014. The Post adds that “even with this compelling ACTIVE data analysis, researchers are hesitant to accept the findings right away,” because “the 2014 ACTIVE study wasn’t designed to track dementia, Jonathan King” said. King “was the project director and co-author of the 2014 study and is a program director at the National Institute on Aging.”

## Neurodegeneration On Its Own May Not Significantly Increase An Individual’s Risk Of Developing Alzheimer’s, Study Indicates.

[Medwire News](#) (7/26, Piper) reports, “Neurodegeneration on its own does not significantly increase an individual’s risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease,” researchers found. The 573-participant, “two-marker imaging study” revealed that “increased  $\beta$ -amyloid ( $A\beta$ ) deposition was the deciding factor in hastening cognitive decline and Alzheimer’s pathology progression with neurodegeneration having a compounding effect.” However, “in the absence of  $A\beta$  deposition, elevated neurodegeneration was associated with no greater risk of cognitive decline or disease progression than having normal levels of both biomarkers.” The [findings](#) were published online July 19 in *The Lancet Neurology*.

### Government and Psychiatry

## Department Of Education Issues Guidelines Aimed At Preventing Schools From Discriminating Against Students With AD/HD.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/26, Resmovits) reported, “The US Department of Education has issued guidelines aimed at preventing schools from discriminating against the growing numbers of students” who have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD). Specifically, “in a letter to school districts and a ‘know your rights’ document to be posted on its website” on July 26, “the department said schools must obey existing civil rights law to identify students with the disorder and provide them with accommodations to help them learn.”

## Medicare Allowing Insurers To Switch Seniors To Advantage Plans With Little Notice.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/26, Jaffe) reports that Medicare is allowing health insurers to enroll members of their marketplace or other commercial plans into their Medicare Advantage programs when those individuals become eligible for Medicare. The practice is known as a “seamless conversion,” and it “requires the insurer to send a letter explaining the new coverage, which takes effect unless the member opts out within 60 days.” As a result, some beneficiaries are finding themselves in Medicare Advantage plans even though they signed up for traditional Medicare. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) says there should be stronger protections for seniors. She stated, “I am exploring the option of requiring an ‘opt-in’ so that Medicare beneficiaries are adequately informed and able to make the choices that work best for them.”

## CMS Seeks To Expedite Access To Federal Insurance Marketplace.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (7/26, Dickson, Subscription Publication) reports CMS wants to simplify “enrollment on the federal insurance marketplace and keep it affordable by expediting the application process and signing up people who are rejected for Medicaid.” Last week, the agency said it intends “to expedite household income verification for consumers applying for marketplace coverage,” which “would reduce the number of consumers who must submit follow-up documentation to verify their income.”

### APA in the News

## WHO Moving Toward Declassifying Transgender Identity As A Mental Disorder.

The [New York Times](#) (7/26, A9, Belluck, Subscription Publication) reports, “The [World Health Organization](#) is moving toward declassifying transgender identity as a mental disorder in its global list of medical conditions.” This comes as “a new study lend[s] additional support to a proposal that would delete the decades-old designation.” The Times adds that “in the fifth and most recent

edition,” the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, “the designation was changed to ‘gender dysphoria,’ and was defined to apply to only those transgender people who are experiencing distress or dysfunction, said” psychiatrist Jack Drescher, MD, a “psychoanalyst at New York Medical College, who serves on the WHO working group and served on a similar working group for the DSM-5.”

**Social Rejection, Violence May Be Primary Source Of Mental Distress In Many Transgender People, Study Finds.** [TIME](#) (7/26, Steinmetz) reports that “social rejection and violence that many transgender people experience appears to be the primary source of their mental distress, as opposed to the distress being solely the result of being transgender,” researchers found. The findings of the 250-participant study were published in *The Lancet Psychiatry*.

[HealthDay](#) (7/26, Preidt), in its coverage of the study, also points out that the “American Psychiatric Association removed gender identity disorder from the” DSM-5.

## Tuesday’s Lead Stories

- **Inducing Labor Appears Not To Raise A Pregnant Woman’s Risk Of Having A Child With Autism.**
- **Some People With Alzheimer’s, Related Dementias May Be Hospitalized Due To Poor Management Of Other Health Problems, Study Indicates.**
- **Americans May Have Warped Understanding Of Veterans’ Mental Health Issues, Survey Finds.**
- **Teen Athletes May Be Less Likely To Abuse Prescription Pain Medications Than Kids Who Don’t Play Sports Or Exercise, Researchers Say.**

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