



# Breaking Barriers in Alzheimer's Disease: the Role of Advanced Drug Delivery Systems

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## Abstract

Alzheimer's disease (AD), characterized by cognitive impairment, brain plaques, and tangles, is a global health concern affecting millions. It involves the build-up of amyloid- $\beta$  ( $A\beta$ ) and tau proteins, the formation of neuritic plaques and neurofibrillary tangles, cholinergic system dysfunction, genetic variations, and mitochondrial dysfunction. Various signaling pathways and metabolic processes are implicated in AD, along with numerous biomarkers used for diagnosis, risk assessment, and research. Despite these, there is no cure or effective treatment for AD. It is critically important to address this immediately to develop novel drug delivery systems (NDDS) capable of targeting the brain and delivering therapeutic agents to modulate the pathological processes of AD. This review summarizes AD, its pathogenesis, related signaling pathways, biomarkers, conventional treatments, the need for NDDS, and their application in AD treatment. It also covers preclinical, clinical, and ongoing trials, patents, and marketed AD formulations.

**Keywords** Alzheimer's disease · biomarkers · clinical trials · NDDS · patents · signaling pathways

## Introduction

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a type of dementia characterized by cognitive impairment. This disease impacts brain regions especially, the hippocampus and entorhinal cortex [1]. AD is marked by extracellular plaques containing amyloid- $\beta$  ( $A\beta$ -40,42) and intracellular neurofibrillary tangles (NTs) containing tau protein [2].  $A\beta$  plaques are clumps of misshapen proteins that accumulate in the spaces between neurons. Whereas, NTs are twisted masses of tau protein that form inside nerve cells. Another hallmark of this condition is the deterioration of neural connections within the brain [3]. Furthermore, the pathology of AD is linked to both, abnormal amyloid precursor protein (APP) processing, Tau hyperphosphorylation, generating  $A\beta$  peptide and aggregation [4].

In addition to this, AD has several forms, including early-onset, late-onset, and familial AD. Early-onset AD (EoAD) is an uncommon form of illness that affects individuals below the age of 65, generally between 40 to 50 [5]. Individuals with EoAD often exhibit more Alzheimer-related brain changes, including tangles, plaques, and loss of brain volume. EoAD has been associated with a genetic defect on chromosome 14 [6]. Late-onset AD (LoAD) is the most common form, typically affecting individuals aged 65 or older. Researchers have not yet identified a specific gene responsible for LoAD. Family AD (FAD) is a less common type of AD with a known genetic link [7]. It is associated with three genes: APP located on chromosome 21, the gene for presenilin 1 (PSEN1) on chromosome 14, and the gene for presenilin 2 (PSEN2) on chromosome 1 [8].

The exact cause of AD is not fully understood. Still, some researchers suggest that dysfunction in the cholinergic system is a significant risk factor for Alzheimer's, while others propose that changes in amyloid  $\beta$ -protein production and processing may be the primary trigger [9].

Moreover, genetic variances and a range of health, environmental, and lifestyle factors can play a role in the development of AD. As AD progresses, individuals may encounter memory loss, including difficulties recalling their past,

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diminished awareness of their surroundings, and challenges recognizing familiar individuals [10].

While there is no cure for AD, specific medications like Donepezil, Galantamine, and Rivastigmine may be prescribed to individuals in the early to mid-stages of the disease. These cholinesterase inhibitors can help mitigate some cognitive and behavioral symptoms by preventing the breakdown of acetylcholine, a crucial brain chemical for memory and cognition. In addition to medication, self-care strategies can assist in managing AD symptoms.

A report from the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI) estimates that there are more than 5.3 million individuals in India living with dementia, with AD being the most prevalent form. Projections indicate that this number may increase to 7.6 million by 2030 [11]. Furthermore, according to the WHO, At present, the population exceeds 55 million individuals worldwide living with dementia, and approximately 10 million new cases are diagnosed each year [12]. Globally, AD is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for an estimated 60–70% of cases [13]. In the United States, an estimated 6.2 million people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2021, and this number is projected to grow to nearly 13 million by 2050 [14]. The economic impact of AD is substantial, with the global cost of dementia estimated at \$1.3 trillion in 2019 and expected to rise to \$2.8 trillion by 2030 [15]. This review provides a concise introduction to AD, covering its pathogenesis, biomarkers, traditional treatments, the need for novel drug delivery systems (NDDS), ongoing clinical trials, and AD-related patents.

## Pathophysiology

AD is marked as the gradual accumulation of neuritic plaques (NP) & NTs [16] which are present around the brain's meningeal, cerebral, and grey matter regions. These plaques and tangles interfere with neurotransmission by affecting neuronal cells [17]. NP is defined as round, small lesions comprised of an A $\beta$ -peptide core. This peptide originates from a transmembrane protein called APP [18]. This is cut from APP by enzyme proteases:  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  secretase [19]. This cleavage further results in the formation of A $\beta$  42. Furthermore, they can clump together & harm the neuronal cells [20]. In addition to this, A $\beta$  42 also leads to the accumulation of fibrillary amyloid protein clusters instead of normal APP degradation [21]. As, a result of this there is hyperphosphorylation of the tau protein. This further leads to tau protein aggregation & forms NTs [22]. These are twisted pairs of helical filaments that primarily affect the hippocampus & cerebral cortex. As a result of this, there is an impairment in cognition functions [23].

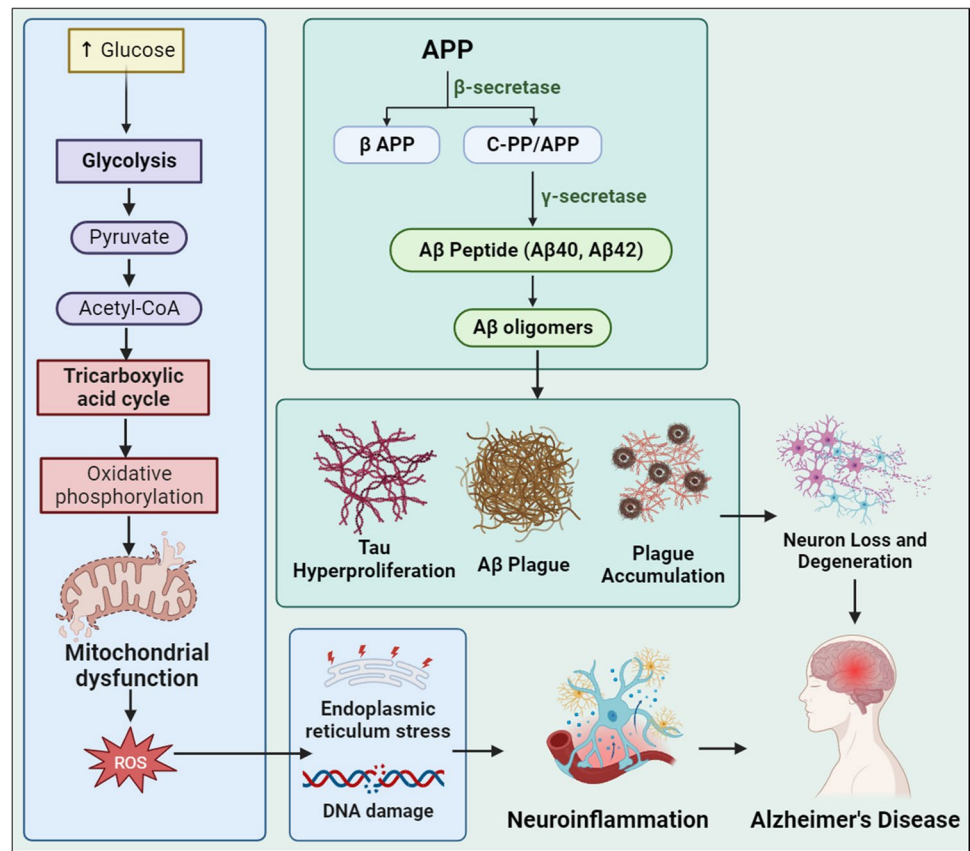
In addition to this, in AD Acetoacetyl CoA level increases which converts into HMG-CoA with the help of HMG-CoA reductase [24]. Further, it activates the mevalonate pathway which results in the formation of Isopentenyl Pyrophosphate (IPP), Geranyl Pyrophosphate (GPP), and Farnesyl Pyrophosphate (FPP) [25]. Afterward, FPP leads to the formation of geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate (GGPP). This further promotes the formation of Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate (Rac) and Ras Homologous (Rho). Finally, it leads to the oxidation of NADH [26]. This ultimately causes mitochondrial dysfunction. As a result of this, there is the formation of Reactive oxygen species (ROS) which activates microglial & causes neuroinflammation [27].

In addition to this, genetic variations are also one of the implicating reasons for the pathogenesis of AD. The genes that are mainly affected in AD include APP on chromosome 21, Presenilin2 (PSEN2) on chromosome 1, and Presenilin1 (PSEN1) on chromosome 14 [28]. These genetic alterations result in the production and accumulation of A $\beta$  peptide by disrupting the functioning of gamma-secretase. These mutations are responsible for approximately 5–10% of AD cases, predominantly in EoAD [29]. Besides this, the other genes that are altered in AD include Apolipoprotein E (APOE), CLU, CR1 (Complement Receptor 1), Bridging Integrator1, Sortilin-related Receptor 1, and TREM2 [30]. The genetic variation in APOE and CLU genes results in the aggregation of A $\beta$  protein. Hence, results in impairment in the functioning of the brain [31]. Whereas, alteration in the Bridging Integrator 1 gene results inhibition of cellular processes such as endocytosis. This leads to a buildup of A $\beta$  protein, thereby increasing the susceptibility to AD [32]. Dysregulated endocytosis contributes to the pathogenesis of AD by enhancing the production and accumulation of A $\beta$ , disrupting cellular homeostasis, and impairing neuronal function [33]. Similarly, alterations in the SORL1 gene result from an impairment in APP processing. Hence, promotes the accumulation of tau proteins and NTs in the brain [34]. Finally, leads to an impairment in cognition functions. Whereas, alterations in the TREM 2 gene result from an impairment in the microglial function and immune response in the brain. Overall, these events result in AD (Fig. 1) [35].

## Signaling Pathways

AD involves several cells' signaling systems and metabolic pathways (Fig. 2) [36].

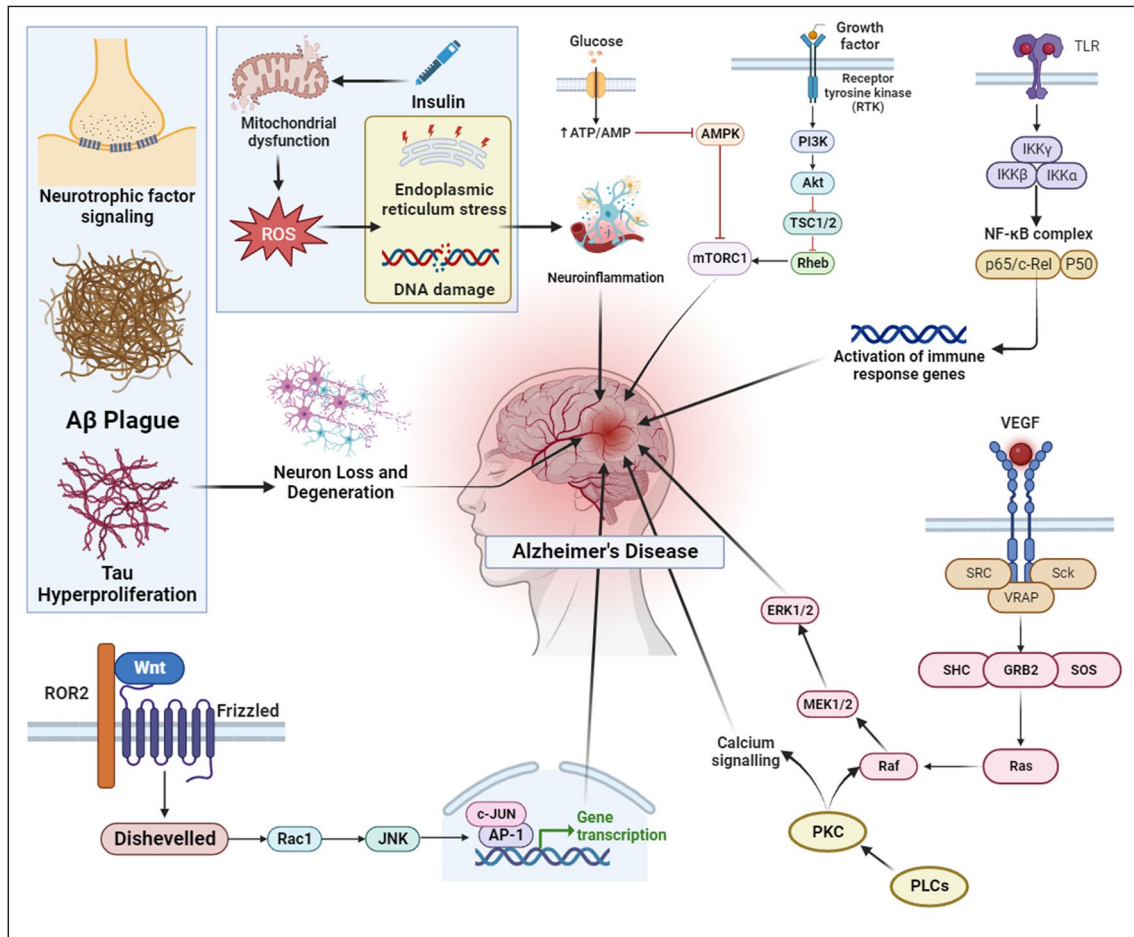
The **A $\beta$  aggregation pathway** is a central process in AD development [37]. Decreasing A $\beta$  production, preventing its aggregation, or promoting its clearance to change the disease's progression [38]. It starts with APP cleavage into A $\beta$  peptides that can aggregate into A $\beta$  fibrils [39]. These fibrils contribute to oxidative stress, inflammation, and the

**Fig. 1** Pathogenesis of AD

formation of NTs) leading to neuronal damage [40]. A $\beta$  plaques a characteristic of AD accumulates but smaller A $\beta$  aggregates also play a role in disease. A $\beta$  oligomers may interact with cell membranes or accumulate at synapses affecting synaptic proteins and glutamate receptors [41]. Microglia the brain's primary immune cells surround these plaques forming a protective barrier and contributing to A $\beta$  fibril clearance [42]. Additionally, degradation of acetylcholine (ACh) is accelerated leading to neurotransmitter deficiency and cognitive impairment [43]. **Tau hyperphosphorylation:** The tau protein when excessively phosphorylated leads to the destabilization of microtubules, a process linked to AD [44]. Tau hyperphosphorylation plays a critical role in AD by causing tau proteins to misfold and aggregate into NTs [45]. These tangles disrupt neuronal function, impairing synaptic communication and leading to cell death, which contributes to cognitive decline and memory loss characteristic of AD [46]. Alzheimer's is marked by the buildup of amyloid plaques and tau protein clusters in various brain regions. The formation of NTs and neuropil threads results in tau phosphorylation [47]. The tau phosphorylation at Ser202/Thr205 labeling is used to determine the Braak stage based on the presence of NTs [48]. The phosphorylation of tau at Tyr18 and Thr231 in the transentorhinal region at Braak stage III/IV indicates a progressive increase with

advancing Braak stages [49]. These insights imply that tau hyperphosphorylation could be a key factor in the development of AD from its early stages making it a potential target for therapeutic strategies [50].

**Neurotrophic factor signaling pathway:** Brain-derived neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) a type of neurotrophic factor is pivotal for maintaining synaptic plasticity a process vital for memory and learning [51]. Dysregulation of this pathway contributes to neurodegeneration and cognitive decline, highlighting its importance in the development and progression of AD [52]. This makes it a potential therapeutic molecule and diagnostic biomarker for AD [53]. BDNF-TrkB pathway, a significant signal pathway for BDNF contributes to neurodegeneration in AD, especially in brain regions like the hippocampus where BDNF expression is reduced [54]. Furthermore, the ERK/CREB signaling pathway can increase BDNF levels mitigating A $\beta$ -induced neuronal loss and dendritic atrophy [55]. Silencing BDNF antisense RNA can also enhance BDNF, reduce A $\beta$ -induced neurotoxicity, and improve cell viability [52]. In AD **apoptosis**, or programmed cell death is a key process [56]. The build-up of A $\beta$  and hyperphosphorylated tau proteins in AD activates apoptotic pathways causing neuronal death [57]. This process is controlled by both extrinsic and intrinsic pathways involving a variety of proteins such as Bcl-2 family proteins



**Fig. 2** Signaling pathways related to AD

and caspases [58]. These apoptotic components interact with growth factors and signaling molecules which include Ras-ERK, JNK, GSK-3 $\beta$ , BDNF/TrkB/CREB, and PI3K/AKT/mTOR [59]. Ras-ERK signaling pathway plays a role in cell cycle progression and apoptosis, while upregulation of JNK pathway in AD leads to a decrease in anti-apoptotic proteins [60]. Additionally, the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway regulates the balance between autophagy and apoptosis, and GSK-3 $\beta$  stimulates pro-apoptotic factors, leading to a dysregulation of apoptosis [61]. Drugs that target these pathways are being developed to modulate the disease condition [62].

**ER stress:** ER has a significant impact on AD [63]. It performs vital cellular functions such as protein folding, calcium balance maintenance, and cholesterol synthesis [64]. In AD, the build-up of A $\beta$  peptides triggers chronic ER stress, leading to oxidative stress, calcium ion imbalance, and mitochondrial dysfunction [65]. This cycle further induces ER stress. ER stress response includes unfolded protein response (UPR), activated by accumulation of misfolded proteins like A $\beta$  [66]. The UPR involves three stress sensors: IRE1, PERK, and ATF6 [67]. Prolonged or severe UPR

activation can lead to pathological apoptotic cell death [68]. Furthermore, ER stress can induce neuronal apoptosis, with excessive oxidative stress being an ER stress inducer [69]. **Insulin signaling** is a key player in cognitive functions such as memory and disrupted in AD [70]. Insulin signaling plays a critical role in AD by influencing brain glucose metabolism, amyloid-beta accumulation, and tau phosphorylation [71]. Impaired insulin signaling in the brain, often termed brain insulin resistance, is associated with cognitive decline and the pathogenesis of AD. This disruption often referred to as brain insulin resistance explains the increased AD risk in diabetic patients [72]. This insulin resistance can lead to an increase in A $\beta$  accumulation, tau hyperphosphorylation, and inflammation [71]. In AD, there are reduction in PI3K subunits and Akt kinase phosphorylation [73]. Enhancing PI3K-Akt signaling in the central nervous system through intranasal insulin treatment can improve memory [74]. The **microbiota-gut-brain axis**, which is believed to play a significant role in neurodegenerative conditions has been observed to be dysregulated in AD [75]. This dysregulation can lead to changes in intestinal permeability, resulting



in neuroinflammation and immune dysregulation [76]. This further contributes to protein aggregation and neuronal death in the brain [77]. Further, gut dysbiosis contributes to amyloid-beta aggregation, neuroinflammation, oxidative stress, and insulin resistance, all of which are implicated in AD [78].

**NMDA pathway:** NMDARs which are vital for synaptic transmission and plasticity are implicated in AD [79]. These receptors are essential for memory and learning processes [80]. In the early stages of AD, an increase in oligomeric amyloid-beta peptide is observed, which leads to NMDAR-dependent synaptic depression and elimination of spine [81]. **Notch signaling pathway** is a key player in vascular development and function that has been linked to AD [82]. Dysfunctional Notch signaling could contribute to the pathophysiology of neurodegenerative diseases like AD [83]. Notch intracellular domain (NICD) is released from the transmembrane by  $\gamma$ -secretase in signal-receiving cells, leading to the activation of canonical Notch target genes [84]. Notch receptor genes and proteins have been associated with aging, cerebrovascular disease, and AD that have potential overlapping between age-related vascular and Alzheimer's pathophysiology [85]. The **GLUT4** is an insulin-regulated glucose transporter found in various tissues including the brain, and plays a crucial role in AD [86]. It facilitates the movement of glucose from the bloodstream to parenchymal cells for metabolism [87]. Alterations in GLUT4 lead to glucose deficiency in the brain that potentially hastens cognitive decline [88]. In the hippocampus, GLUT4 translocates to the plasma membrane post-memory training [89]. Inhibiting GLUT4-mediated glucose transport can impair memory acquisition, with long-term inhibition affecting long-term memory while enhancing short-term memory [90]. This indicates GLUT4's critical role in hippocampal memory processes [91].

**Akt-GSK-3 $\beta$  pathway** involving Akt and GSK-3 $\beta$  is significant in AD [92]. This pathway is crucial for neuroprotection as it promotes cell survival by encouraging cell proliferation and inhibiting apoptosis [93]. It is particularly relevant in AD due to its role in facilitating Tau protein hyper-phosphorylation [94]. GSK-3 $\beta$  is instrumental in the neuronal stress response affecting transcriptional activity of the cAMP response element binding [95]. This regulates the transcription of BDNF and other neuropeptides [96]. These elements are vital for long-term memory regulation and maintenance of synaptic plasticity [97]. The **mTOR pathway** is a key regulator of cell growth, proliferation, and metabolism, and has been linked to AD [98]. This pathway responds to environmental stimuli such as growth factors, energy state, and nutrients [99]. Increased activity of the mTOR signaling pathway is believed to contribute to AD's major pathological processes [100]. mTOR inhibitors have shown promise in alleviating AD-like pathology and

cognitive deficits in numerous animal models suggesting the potential of reducing mTOR activity as a novel therapeutic strategy for AD [101]. **Oxidative stress** induced by the accumulation of A $\beta$  in AD contributes to neuronal death by damaging lipids, proteins, and DNA [102]. It also triggers apoptosis and interferes with various signaling pathways, including ERK1/2, Nrf2, RCAN1, CREB/ERK, Nrf2, PP2A, NF $\kappa$ B, and PI3K/Akt, leading to changes in GSK-3 $\beta$  expression and PP2A activity [103].

The **NF- $\kappa$ B pathway** a family of transcription factors that regulate numerous genes associated with inflammation is implicated in AD due to chronic inflammation and overactivation of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway [104]. This pathway can be activated through two distinct pathways: canonical and noncanonical, with the former playing a crucial role in inflammatory responses seen in AD [105]. Extracellular A $\beta$  induces iNOS, leading to an oxidative stress response and activation of the NF- $\kappa$ B inflammation pathway [106]. The multifactorial nature of AD has led to the exploration of novel targets for AD therapeutics including NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway [107]. **NLRP1/3 pathway:** The NLRP1 and NLRP3 are implicated in AD due to their role in inflammation [108]. In AD, these inflammasomes are activated, leading to an increase in inflammasome components and downstream effectors [109]. NLRP3 inflammasome activated in microglia by A $\beta$  contributes to neuroinflammation [110]. Similarly, the NLRP1 inflammasome responds to A $\beta$  aggregates leading to the activation of caspase-1 and processing of interleukin-1 $\beta$  (IL-1 $\beta$ ) and interleukin-18 (IL-18) [111]. The **Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway** is crucial for cell survival and death and is implicated in AD [112]. Its loss makes neurons more susceptible to A $\beta$ -induced apoptosis [113]. Activation of this pathway occurs when Wnt proteins bind to the Frizzled (Fzd) receptor family and Wnt co-receptor LRP5 or LRP6, leading to GSK3 $\beta$  inhibition and  $\beta$ -catenin stabilization [114]. Stabilized  $\beta$ -catenin then moves into the nucleus interacts with TCF/LEF and induces the expression of specific target genes [115]. Impaired Wnt signaling pathways are linked to increased A $\beta$  levels, reduced  $\beta$ -catenin levels, and enhanced GSK-3 $\beta$  enzyme expression [116]. Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling also regulates adult hippocampal neurogenesis with Wnt7a playing a critical role in neurogenesis by activating Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling and specific downstream target genes [117].

**AMPK pathway:** The AMPK is a crucial controller of energy balance within cells and has significant role in managing glucose and lipid metabolism [118]. It has been proposed that AMPK may be involved in AD [119]. AMPK influences the generation of A $\beta$  protein is a key factor in AD by adjusting neuronal cholesterol and sphingomyelin levels and controlling APP distribution in lipid rafts [120]. Furthermore, AMPK activity, which is linked to mitochondrial biogenesis and function, is found to be reduced in AD brains

[121]. AMPK activation also facilitates autophagy and promotes lysosomal degradation of A $\beta$  [122]. However, AMPK activation can also lead to non-neuroprotective outcomes, including increased A $\beta$  generation and tau phosphorylation [123]. **mTOR pathway:** mTOR is a serine/threonine kinase that is integral to various cellular processes such as growth, proliferation, metabolism, protein synthesis, and autophagy [124]. mTOR activation is thought to increase A $\beta$  generation and deposition by influencing APP metabolism and upregulating  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -secretases [125]. It also inhibits autophagy, leading to a decrease in A $\beta$  clearance [126]. Furthermore, mTOR is implicated in the pathogenesis of AD by inhibiting insulin signaling and affecting neuronal growth and plasticity as a nutrient sensor [127]. However, mTOR activation also has harmful effects, including inhibiting insulin signaling and autophagic removal of A $\beta$  and tau aggregates [128].

**Sirtuin 1 (Sirt1) pathway:** SIRT1 a member of the Sirtuin family, plays a crucial role in AD by regulating processing of APP [129]. It enhances the production and activity of  $\alpha$ -secretase, an enzyme that prevents the formation of toxic A $\beta$  species [130]. Additionally, regions of the brain with high A $\beta$  deposition also show increased aerobic glycolysis, which can reduce NAD<sup>+</sup> levels and potentially affect the Sirtuin pathway [131]. Therefore, therapeutic strategies that increase SIRT1 could potentially reduce AD neuropathology by inhibiting the formation of A $\beta$  [132]. **PGC-1 $\alpha$  pathway:** PGC-1 $\alpha$  is a key regulator of mitochondrial biogenesis which is involved in various metabolic processes and could potentially protect against AD [133]. It activates survival pathways such as the MEK/ERK and PI3K/AKT signalling pathways which prevent apoptosis in hippocampal neurons [134]. PI3Ks are a group of enzymes vital for cellular functions that have a significant role in AD through the **PI3K/Akt signalling pathway** [135]. This pathway regulates numerous biological processes and can inhibit several neurotoxic mechanisms, making it a potential therapeutic target for AD [136]. It influences Tau phosphorylation and amyloid cascade both crucial in Alzheimer's progression [137]. The pathway is also linked to oxidative stress, neuroinflammation, insulin signalling alterations, and autophagy changes in Alzheimer's [138]. **HIF-1 $\alpha$  pathway:** HIF-1 $\alpha$  is a key regulator that manages cellular reactions to low oxygen levels [139]. It has a crucial role in AD. When oxygen levels are low HIF-1 $\alpha$  stabilizes and moves to nucleus to form a complex with HIF-1 $\beta$  [140]. This process is controlled by enzymes like prolyl hydroxylase (PHD) and HIF prolyl hydroxylase (HPH) which modify HIF-1 $\alpha$  enabling it to associate with Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) [141]. Any disruption in the autophagy process can lead to neuroinflammation and neuronal cell death, causing hypoxia and triggering various transcription factors, including HIF-1 $\alpha$  [142].

The **NRF2-ARE pathway** is crucial in AD [143]. NRF2 is a transcriptional regulator that responds to oxidative stress

[144]. When oxidative damage is high NRF2 moves to nucleus and binds to Antioxidant Response Element (ARE) which triggers transcription of antioxidant protector genes [145]. This pathway is involved in AD due to its dysfunction and altered localization [146]. It triggers genes that protect cells and detoxify enzyme genes which can prevent AD pathology [147]. However, in AD, buildup of A $\beta$  and tau decreases NRF2 levels, reducing the antioxidant response [148]. This decrease in NRF2 levels leads to further accumulation of A $\beta$  and tau by disrupting their autophagy-mediated turnover [149]. Therefore, NRF2-ARE pathway is considered a potential therapeutic target for AD [150].

**PKC pathway:** PKC is a group of enzymes that is essential for various cellular functions [151]. In AD, PKC enhances the production of a secretory form of amyloid precursor protein (sAPP  $\alpha$ ) by activating  $\alpha$ -secretase activity, which decreases buildup of harmful A $\beta$  levels in brain [152]. PKC isoforms like PKC $\alpha$  and  $\epsilon$  signalling pathways are closely linked with pathological damage in AD [153]. Activating these PKC isoforms can reduce A $\beta$  production and related dementia in AD by enhancing APP  $\alpha$ -processing pathways and A $\beta$  degradation [154]. **TGF- $\beta$  pathway:** TGF- $\beta$  a transcriptional regulator is crucial in AD [155]. Under low oxygen conditions, TGF- $\beta$  stabilizes and forms a complex with Smad proteins key molecules in TGF- $\beta$  signalling [156]. This pathway is involved in AD due to its dysfunction and altered localization [157]. It triggers genes that protect cells and detoxify enzyme genes which can prevent AD pathology [158]. However, in AD the buildup of A $\beta$  and tau decreases TGF- $\beta$  levels reducing the antioxidant response [159]. This decrease in TGF- $\beta$  levels leads to further accumulation of A $\beta$  and tau by disrupting their autophagy-mediated turnover [160]. Therefore, the TGF- $\beta$  pathway is considered a potential therapeutic target for AD [161].

**JAK-STAT pathway** is crucial in neuroinflammatory diseases like AD [162]. It initiates innate immunity, manages adaptive immune mechanisms, and controls the neuroinflammatory response [163]. This pathway transmits signals from receptors on cell membrane to nucleus, regulating cellular activities such as growth, differentiation, and apoptosis [164]. Any imbalance in this pathway leads to severe immunodeficiencies and malignancies, and it also plays a role in neuro-transduction and pro-inflammatory signalling mechanisms [165]. **Ras/ MAPK pathway:** It transmits signals from receptors on the cell membrane to the nucleus that regulates cellular activities such as growth, differentiation, and apoptosis [166]. In AD, all MAPK pathways, including ERK, JNK, and p38 pathways, are activated in vulnerable neurons, indicating their involvement in the disease's pathophysiology and pathogenesis [167]. Oxidative stress can trigger intracellular signalling pathways including p38 MAPK signalling pathway which contributes to aggregation of A $\beta$  and hyperphosphorylated tau protein in brain [168].

**CDK5 pathway:** CDK5 is a crucial member of the cyclin-dependent kinases, playing a significant role in development of a central nervous system and various neuronal activities [169]. In AD, CDK5 is closely linked with the disease's pathogenesis [170]. When neurons are exposed to pathological stimuli, CDK5 activity increases leading to abnormal hyperphosphorylation of several CDK5 substrates like APP, tau, and neurofilament resulting in AD [171]. The imbalance of CDK5 contributes to numerous pathological events in AD from the creation of senile plaques and NTs to synaptic damage, mitochondrial dysfunction, cell cycle reactivation, and neuronal cell apoptosis [172].

## Biomarkers

A biomarker, which is also called a biological marker, is a detectable sign that gives us information about alterations occurring inside our body. These changes can be detected by measuring the increase or decrease in the level of biomarkers present in the blood, urine, or soft tissues. These studies help us to diagnose disease at an early stage [173]. The different biomarkers which are essential in the diagnosis of AD are given in Table 1.

## Conventional Treatments

Conventional treatments for AD mainly concentrate on managing the symptoms of the condition. There is currently no cure or synthetic medication available to halt or reverse the disease's progression [193]. The two main classes of synthetic drugs used for AD are cholinesterase inhibitors and NMDA receptor antagonists [194]. Cholinesterase inhibitors, including medications like Donepezil, Rivastigmine, and Galantamine. They work by elevating acetylcholine levels, a neurotransmitter associated with memory and cognition, in the brain [195]. These drugs aim to enhance communication between nerve cells and temporarily reduce cognitive and behavioral observed in individuals with Alzheimer's. [196].

Whereas, NMDA receptor antagonists include Memantine which helps to regulate the activity of glutamate, an excitatory neurotransmitter [197]. It is typically used in moderate to severe Alzheimer's cases and can provide some relief from symptoms. It is important that these medications do not modify the course of the disease [197]. Their effects can vary among individuals. While they may offer temporary improvement in cognitive function and behavior, the progression of AD continues [198]. The various Synthetic drugs used in the management of AD are discussed below in the table (Table II):

In addition to this, there is currently no approved herbal medication or therapy that is commonly accepted as a standard treatment for AD. Hence, the majority of the medications used in traditional treatment of the condition are synthetic. The majority of traditional methods focus on drugs such as NMDA receptor antagonists and cholinesterase inhibitors, which are designed synthetically to target particular components of Alzheimer's symptoms [203]. Additionally, the use of herbal medicines and other complementary and alternative therapies as possible supplements to traditional medical care is the subject of the remaining research. In small-scale studies, certain herbs and compounds, such as *Ginkgo biloba*, Curcuma longa, Papaya, Blueberry, and Colostrinin have shown potential for maintaining cognitive function and reducing inflammation, which is linked to AD. The various herbal drugs used in the management of AD are described below in Table III.

The drawbacks of current and conventional treatments for various medical conditions include issues related to pharmacokinetics, bioavailability, patient compliance, and toxicity or side effects [217]. Conventional treatments often suffer from poor pharmacokinetics, leading to inadequate absorption and distribution of the drug within the body. This results in suboptimal bioavailability, where only a small fraction of the administered dose reaches the target site in an effective form [218]. Additionally, the difficulty of patient compliance is a significant concern, as many traditional therapies require frequent dosing or have inconvenient administration routes, making it challenging for patients to adhere to their treatment regimens. Moreover, toxicity and adverse side effects are common problems associated with conventional treatments, which can cause harm to patients and reduce the overall effectiveness of the therapy [219]. These limitations highlight the need for novel delivery systems that can enhance pharmacokinetics, improve bioavailability, simplify administration, and minimize toxicity, thereby offering more effective and safer treatment options.

## Need for a Novel drug Delivery System and Their Mechanism of Penetration

There are several conventional treatments which have been explored by the researchers for the management of AD [220]. However, they have some limitations. For instance, they have difficulty crossing the Blood-brain barrier (BBB), which prevents them from reaching the target site [221]. Additionally, conventional treatments are associated with side effects due to their non-specific targeting or toxicity to healthy cells. Furthermore, a major limitation of herbal drugs is their low solubility and metabolism, which can limit their bioavailability and efficacy [222]. In addition, the quality and purity of herbal drugs can vary depending on the

**Table 1** Biomarkers of AD

Biomarker	Type/ Fluid	Role	Test/ Method	Description	Ref
A $\beta$	Protein/cerebrospinal fluid	Plaque formation	ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A<math>\beta</math> is protein that forms plaques in brains of Alzheimer's patients.</li> <li>• ELISA measures A<math>\beta</math> levels in blood or CSF to diagnose and monitor the disease.</li> </ul>	[174]
Tau protein	Protein/	Indicate NTs	ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tau protein is found in abnormal tangles in brains of AD patients.</li> <li>• ELISA measures Tau levels in blood or CSF to diagnose and monitor the disease.</li> </ul>	[175]
CLU	Protein/cerebrospinal fluid	Risk Assessment and Research	ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLU gene is changed or mutated, and its increased disease is often measured through ELISA.</li> </ul>	[176]
CRP	Protein	Inflammation Assessment and Research	ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRP is a protein that indicates an increase in inflammation.</li> </ul>	[177]
IL-6	Protein/cerebrospinal fluid	Inflammation Assessment and Research	ELISA, PCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IL-6 is a pro-inflammatory cytokine.</li> <li>• Increased levels lead to Alzheimer 's-associated inflammation.</li> </ul>	[178]
TNF- $\alpha$	Protein/cerebrospinal fluid	Inflammation Assessment and Research	ELISA, PCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TNF-<math>\alpha</math> is another pro-inflammatory cytokine.</li> <li>• Increased level of TNF- <math>\alpha</math> leads to neuroinflammation.</li> </ul>	[179]
CSF	Fluid/blood fluid	Screening and treatment	Lumbar Puncture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSF can help us find markers like A<math>\beta</math> and tau, useful for diagnosing AD.</li> </ul>	[180]
A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 Ratio	Biofluid/cerebrospinal fluid	Indicates A $\beta$ protein levels in CSF	ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures the ratio of A<math>\beta</math>42 to A<math>\beta</math>40 in blood.</li> <li>• Imbalances indicate Alzheimer's pathology.</li> </ul>	[181]
P-Tau181	Biofluid/Protein	Indicates abnormal tau protein levels in CSF/Neurodegeneration	ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures the level of phosphorylated Tau protein (P-Tau181) in the blood.</li> </ul>	[182]
NFL	Biofluid/Protein	Indicates nerve cell damage and neurodegeneration	Immunoassay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detects neurofilament light chain, a marker of neuronal damage.</li> <li>• An increase in the NFL levels indicates the neurodegeneration in the brain.</li> </ul>	[183]
Amyloid PET Imaging	Imaging/cerebrospinal fluid	Measures amyloid plaques in brain	PET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased amyloid plaques in the brain indicate the AD</li> </ul>	[184]
Tau PET Imaging	Imaging	Detects abnormal Tau protein Accumulation	PET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It helps to assess the progression of the disease.</li> </ul>	[185]
MRI Volumetry	Imaging	Measures changes in brain volume/Neurodegeneration	PET / MRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures change in brain volume, particularly the hippocampus and other regions to identify disease-related atrophy.</li> </ul>	[186]



Table I (continued)

Biomarker	Type/ Fluid	Role	Test/ Method	Description	Ref
FDG - PET	Imaging	Assess glucose metabolism in brain/Neurodegeneration	PET	• Reduction in glucose uptake indicates neuronal dysfunction.	[187]
APOE $\epsilon$ 4	Genetic	Risk Assessment	PCR	• Presence of this variant increases the risk of late-onset AD.	[188]
PSEN1	Genetic	Rare Familial Alzheimer's Risk	Sequencing	• Mutations in this gene can lead to early-onset familial AD.	[189]
PSEN2	Genetic	Rare Familial Alzheimer's Risk	Sequencing	• Mutations in this gene are associated with EoFAD.	[190]
APP	Genetic	Rare Familial Alzheimer's Risk	Sequencing	• Mutations in the APP can cause EoFAD.	[191]
miRNAs	Molecules	Regulatory Role in Gene Expression	qRT-PCR and next-generation sequencing	• Increased or decreased miRNA indicates AD.	[192]
Homocysteine	Molecule	Potential Risk Factor	Blood Test	• Increased levels of homocysteine in the blood are linked with cognitive decline and increased AD risk.	[191]
Plasmalogens	Lipids	Potential Indicators of Alzheimer's Risk	Mass Spectrometry	• Reduced levels of plasmalogens increase the risk of AD.	[192]

Table II Synthetic Drug Used in the Management of AD

S. No.	Drug name	Dose of drug	Formulation	Outcomes	Ref
1.	Donepezil	5 mg daily, possibly raise 10 mg after 4–6 weeks if well-tolerated, then increase to 23 mg after at least 3 months.	Tablet	Improved memory and thinking	[199]
2.	Rivastigmine	6 to 12 mg daily, given twice a day, for both Oral Solution and capsules	Solution Capsule	Enhances cognitive function	
3.	Galantamine	Tablet – 4 mg, 8 mg, and 12 mg. Capsule – 8 mg, 16 mg, and 24 mg. The oral solution- 4 mg.	Tablet Capsule Oral solution	Improved memory and cognition	[200]
4.	Memantine	Tablets and oral solution at 5 mg daily, with potential increases to 10 mg, 15 mg, and 20 mg weekly if tolerated.	Tablet Oral solution	Regulates glutamate activity	[201]
5.	Donepezil + Memantine	7 mg memantine/10 mg donepezil daily, on a daily basis to increase to 28 mg memantine/10 mg donepezil in 7 mg increments weekly if tolerated.	Capsule (ER)	Combines acetylcholinesterase inhibition and glutamate regulation	[202]

sources and preparation methods, which also affects their safety and efficacy. Also, the active ingredients in herbal drugs can interact with other medications or cause side effects such as gastrointestinal upset, dizziness, or headache [223]. Most importantly, At present, the options for treating AD are quite restricted and have shown only modest efficacy. The main classes of drugs used to treat AD are cholinesterase inhibitors and NMDA receptor antagonists [224]. However, these drugs have several limitations that make them less effective in treating AD. Cholinesterase inhibitors have

limited efficacy and can cause side effects such as diarrhea, nausea and vomiting. Whereas, NMDA receptor antagonists can cause side effects such as dizziness, headache, and confusion [225]. Furthermore, these drugs do not address the underlying pathophysiology of AD, which involves different pathophysiological events such as buildup of amyloid and tau, neuro-inflammation, and neuronal injury [226].

The aforementioned limitations of the conventional treatments can be addressed by using NDDS. Advantages of using NDDS include enhanced drug efficacy, reduced side

**Table III** Therapeutic Products Used in the Management of AD

S. No.	Therapeutic products	Condition of participants	Dose	Animal	Duration	Outcomes	Ref.
1.	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Mild to moderate dementia	240 mg	Mice	24 weeks	• Improved neuropsychiatric symptom	[204]
			120 to 240 mg	Mice	24 weeks	• Improved cognitive functions	[205]
		AD or vascular dementia	240 mg/day	Mice	24 weeks	• Improved cognitive functions and functional abilities	[206]
						• Improved neuropsychiatric symptom	
Mild cognitive impairment	40 mg	Male Wistar rat	24 weeks	• Improved cognitive functions	[207]		
2.	Saffron	Mild to moderate AD	33 mg/kg	Rat	16 weeks	• Improved cognitive functions and memory	[208]
3.	Lemon balm	Mild to moderate AD	25 mg/kg	Mice	4 months	• Improved cognition function and agitation	[209]
4.	Green tea	Severe AD	20 mg/kg/day	Mice	2 months	• Improved cognitive function	[210]
5.	Papaya	AD	400 mg/kg	Rat	6 months	• Reduced oxidative stress	[211]
6.	Sage	Mild to moderate AD	300 mg/kg	Mice	4 months	• Improved cognitive functions • No side effects except anxiety	[212]
7.	Coconut	AD	300 mg/kg	Rat	21 days	• Improved cognitive function	[213]
8.	Blueberry	Moderate to severe AD	150 mg/kg	Mice	16 weeks	• Improved learning • Reduced depression symptoms	[214]
9.	<i>Polygonum minus Huds</i>	Early memory failures	100 mg/kg	Mice	12 weeks	• Improved learning • Enhance anti-oxidant activity • Reduced depressive symptoms	[215]
10.	Colostrinin	AD	100 µg	Mice	15 weeks	• Improved cognitive and daily functions	[216]

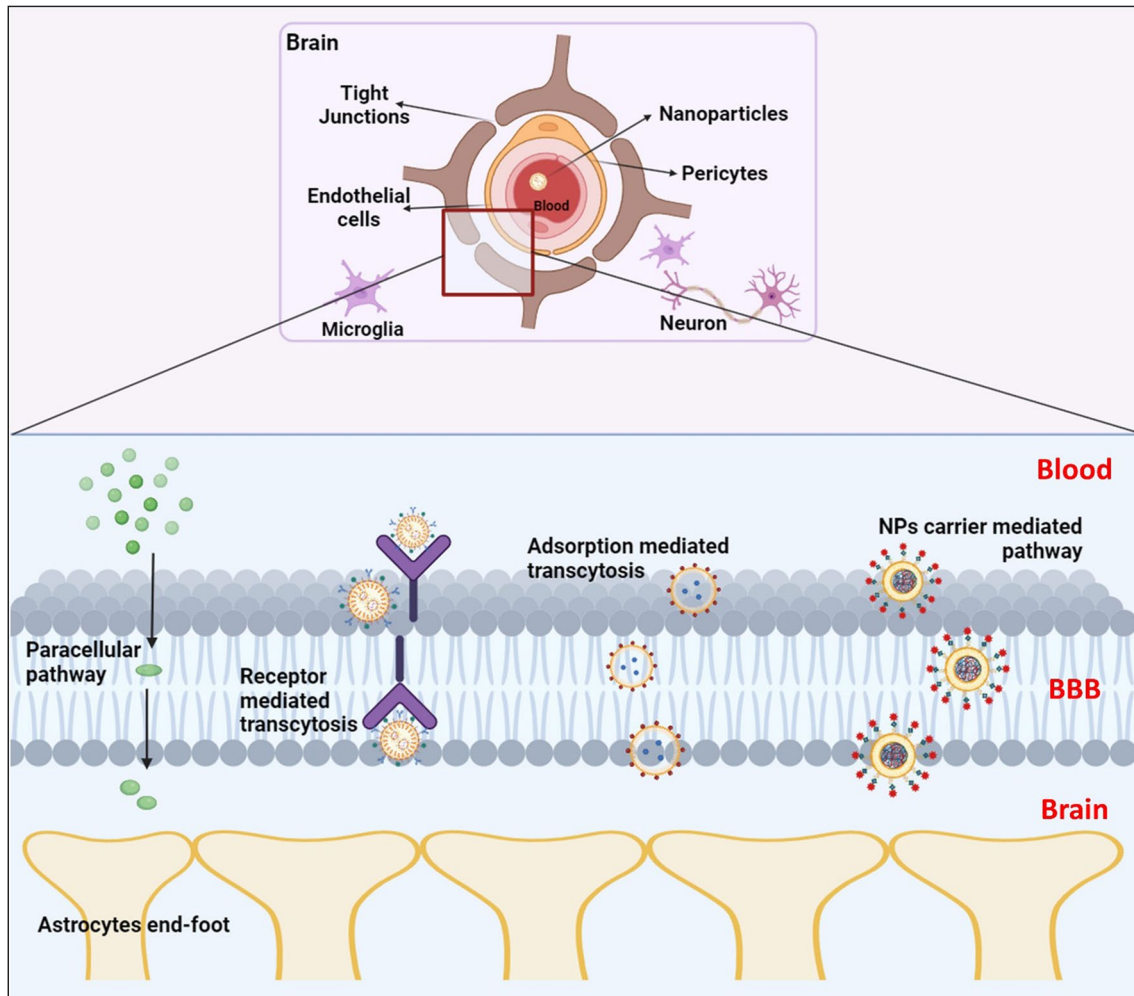
effects, prolonged drug action, better patient compliance, targeted drug delivery, protection of sensitive drugs from degradation, and overcoming biological barriers [227]. The different mechanism that helps the nanocarriers to cross BBB include the paracellular pathway, adsorption-mediated transcytosis, receptor-mediated transcytosis, and carrier-mediated pathway [228]. In passive diffusion, Nanoparticles (NPs) with high lipophilicity and small size can diffuse through BBB. This is facilitated by the lipid bilayer of the BBB's endothelial cells, which allows lipophilic substances to dissolve and cross BBB [229]. In adsorption-mediated transcytosis, NPs with a positive charge or hydrophobic surface can adsorb to the luminal surface of the endothelial cells and induce endocytosis, followed by exocytosis at abluminal side [230]. In receptor-mediated transcytosis, NPs are conjugated with ligands that bind to specific receptors on endothelial cells which trigger receptor-mediated endocytosis and exocytosis across the BBB (Fig. 2) [231].

In carrier-mediated transport, NPs are conjugated with molecules that are substrates for transporters on the endothelial cells that utilize carrier-mediated transport to cross the BBB (Fig. 3) [232]. The various nanocarrier explored to treat AD includes VDDS, Nanoparticle (Gold NPs, Silver NPs, Copper NPs), Intranasal, Liposome, Nanoemulsion, Nano Suspension, *in situ* gel, Nanoparticle and SLN, and PLGA Nanoparticle.

## Vesicular Drug Delivery System (VDDS)

### Liposomes

Liposomes are defined by the presence of at least one lipid bilayer. This lipid bilayer forms a closed sphere that houses a cavity filled with drug. This arrangement is due to the amphipathic characteristics of phospholipids, which have hydrophilic heads and hydrophobic tails. They are being



**Fig. 3** Mechanism of drug transport

investigated as a potential method for delivering drugs to treat AD. They can carry various therapeutic molecules and cross the blood-brain barrier. Recent developments have led to liposomes that can better penetrate the blood-brain barrier, enhancing the effectiveness of Alzheimer's drugs are discussed below [233].

Andrade *et al.*, prepared transferrin-functionalized VB12 liposomes (VB12-Tf-LIP) by thin film hydration technique. Results of the study showed that the prepared formulation exhibited particle size below 200 nm. Thereby helping the liposomes to cross the BBB. This further helped the VB12-Tf-LIP to exhibit a 1.6-fold increase in  $A\beta_{1-42}$  fibril disaggregation as compared to the VB12 alone treated group. In addition to this, the prepared formulation exhibited anti-AD activity by inhibiting the  $A\beta$  fibrillation and disaggregation of preformed fibrils [234].

Similarly, Mutu *et al.*, prepared rivastigmine liposomes by thin film hydration technique. Their activity was evaluated in the Balb-C-type mice model. The results of the study

showed that rivastigmine liposomes exhibited an increase in anti-cholinesterase activity by 2.8-fold and 2.2-fold as compared to negative control and rivastigmine alone treated group, respectively. Hence, they exhibited better anti-AD activity as compared to other groups [235].

In another study, Vasileva *et al.*, prepared  $\alpha$ -tocopherol and donepezil co-loaded liposomes by solvent evaporation technique. Their activity was evaluated in a transgenic AD mice model. The prepared formulation showed a decrease in the number of  $A\beta$  plaques by 1.5-fold as compared to the untreated group [236].

Kuedo *et al.*, explore the potential of ethanolic extract shrimp shells (EESS) loaded liposomes against AD. Their activity was evaluated on a thiopental-induced Wistar rat model. The result demonstrated that the prepared formulation exhibited a neuroprotective effect by modulating BDNF/TrkB, GAP-43, and PSD-95 signaling pathways. In addition, upregulated synaptic proteins. Thereby, improved cognition in the AD model [237].

Li *et al.* prepared Galanthamine hydrobromide-loaded liposomes against the AD model by the thin-film homogenization method. Their *in vivo* activity was checked on the Male Sprague–Dawley rats. The result of the prepared formulation showed a 7-fold decreased in the acetylcholinesterase activity in the diseased group [238].

### Niosomes

Niosomes are vesicles formed by non-ionic surfactants and cholesterol for targeted drug delivery. They are structurally similar to liposomes but offer greater stability. They can encapsulate both water-soluble and fat-soluble drugs making them ideal for various applications in drug delivery systems. They can encapsulate various therapeutic agents and cross the blood-brain barrier [239]. Various niosomes that are being studied as a potential delivery system for AD treatments are mentioned below.

Kulkarni *et al.*, formulated N-Acetyl Cysteine niosomes by ethanol injection method. Their activity was evaluated on Male Wistar rats. Results showed that the prepared formulation exhibited a 1.2-fold increase in nasal permeation as compared to unprocessed N-Acetyl Cysteine. Furthermore, the prepared formulation exhibited a 1.3-fold decrease in AChE level as compared to untreated group [240].

Similarly, Moulahoum *et al.*, prepared carnosine-loaded niosome Against AD. The prepared formulation exhibited a neuroprotective effect by exhibiting antioxidant and anti-AOPP activity. In addition, it was observed from the study that the carnosine-treated group exhibited a 2.1-fold decrease in AoPP level as compared to the carnosine-treated group [241].

In addition, study Ansari *et al.*, explore the potential of Artemisia absinthium loaded niosomes against AD. The formulation was prepared by thin hydration techniques. The result of the study showed that Artemisia absinthium niosome exhibited a neuroprotective effect by decreasing aggregation of A $\beta$  proteins and neurofibril tangles at the desired site [242].

### Exosome

Exosomes are tiny vesicles ranging from 30 to 150 nm in diameter. They can carry genetic material and proteins from their parent cells. They are particularly useful in cancer detection as they can contain relevant information from cancer cells. As potential drug delivery tools, exosomes offer low immunogenicity, the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier, and the flexibility to encapsulate various therapeutic agents, thereby extending their half-life and stability [243]. Studies related to exomes for the management of AD are given below.

Chen *et al.*, isolated exosomes from mesenchymal stem cells (MSC-exosomes). Their activity was examined on the J20 mouse model. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation exhibited a 2-fold improvement in cognition as compared to the disease group. Also, reduce the A $\beta$  plaque to 5-fold in Tg- exosome treated group as compared to the diseased group animals [244].

Similarly, Zaldivar *et al.*, isolated exosomes from Mesenchymal stem cells, and their activity was examined in the C57BL/6 AD mice model. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation exhibited a 1.6-fold increase in novel object activity as compared to the negative control group. Overall, the results of the aforementioned activity revealed improvement in learning and memory in the MSCs exosome-treated group [245].

Cui *et al.*, isolated rabies viral glycoprotein (RVG) exosomes from the Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), and their activity was examined on the APP/PS1 double transgenic mice. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation exhibited a 1.4-fold increase in the Morris water maze test as compared to the diseased group. Overall, the result showed a 2-fold decrease in the formation of plaques in MSC-RVG-Exo treated group [246].

In another study, Sheykhasan *et al.*, isolated Q10-loaded exosomes from adipose-derived stem cells (ADSCs-Exo) and their activity was examined on the STZ-induced Wistar rats. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation exhibited improvement in cognition by learning and memory as compared to the untreated. In addition, exosomes, exhibited anti Amyloid beta effect, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory action in the brain, and produced a neuroprotective effect [247].

Similarly, Jahangard *et al.*, isolated exosomes from the Mesenchymal stem cells that contain miR-29, and their activity was examined in the male Wistar rats. The result shows that the prepared formulation showed a decrease of 1.5-fold in the A $\beta$  as compared to the diseased group. Overall, the study showed increased learning and memory in the AD model [248].

### Transferosome

Transferosomes are unique, deformable vesicular structures composed of phospholipids and an edge activator, which allow them to navigate through small pores. They are used for both local and systemic drug delivery due to their high encapsulation efficiency, ability to act as a reservoir for gradual drug release, and protection of the drug from metabolic breakdown. They can also deliver drugs through the nasal route, bypassing the blood-brain barrier and enhancing bioavailability [249]. The several studies reported for the management of AD are discussed below.



Raj *et al.*, prepared curcumin-loaded transfersome-based In-Situ Gel by the thin film hydration method. The *in vivo* study was performed on the Swiss albino mice. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation increased the 2-fold concentration of the drug in the brain as compared to the curcumin IV formulation. This study showed that the prepared In-situ gel formulation increased BA in the brain. Hence, transfersome can be used in the management of the AD [250].

In another study, Mishra *et al.*, prepared Berberine and curcumin co-loaded transfersomes by film hydration method against the AD model. Their activity was checked on the Swiss albino mice. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation decreased the 4-fold AChE in the BBR-CUR-TRANS treated group as compared to the control group. Overall, the study showed an improvement in memory in the AD mice model [251].

Similarly, Nojoki *et al.*, prepared chitosan-transfersulin (CTI) transfersome by the film hydration method against the AD model. An *in vivo* study of the prepared formulation was performed on the STZ-induced Wistar rats. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation-treated group exhibited a 1.5-fold increased in latency as compared to the diseased group. Additionally, the Histopathological evaluation of the study indicated a decrease in the level of CA1, CA3, and DG in CTI treated group by 2-fold, 3.6-fold, and 2.5-fold respectively as compared to the control group [252].

### Ethosomes

Ethosomes are nanoscale carriers composed of phospholipids, ethanol, and water, designed for delivering substances through the skin. They can encapsulate and deliver both lipophilic and hydrophilic drugs efficiently. They are stable, approved for pharmaceutical use, and can be incorporated into different formulations like gels and creams [253]. Studies that have explored the use of ethosomes as a type of nanoscale carrier in Alzheimer's treatment are mentioned below.

Shi *et al.*, prepared ligustrazine phosphate-loaded Ethosomes (LP-Ethosomes), and examined its activity in the male Sprague–Dawley rats. The result of the study showed that the LP-Ethosomes treated group indicated a decrease in escape time by 2.5-fold as compared to the control group. The ethosomal-treated group exhibited an increased in MDA activity by 0.93-fold as compared to the control group. Overall, the study showed that prepared formulation is effective in treating AD [254].

### Phytosomes

Phytosomes are a type of advanced drug delivery system that encapsulates plant-based bioactive compounds with

phospholipids, forming a cell-like structure. This unique structure enhances the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of the herbal extracts leading to increased bioavailability. Phytosomes enhance the potency, quality, and precision of treatments. Additionally, it shields the components of herbal extracts from degradation by digestive fluids and gut bacteria [255]. Studies reported so far for the AD treatment are given below.

Wattanathorn *et al.*, prepared mulberry fruit and ginger (PMG) loaded Phytosome. Their activity was evaluated on the male Wistar rats. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation decreased 1.5-fold in the Morris Water Maze test which resulted the improved memory as compared to the diseased treated group. Also, PMG Phytosome increased 1.4-fold in the locomotor as compared to the induced group. Thus, the study showed that the prepared formulation will be effective in the neuroprotectant effect [256].

Similarly, Ullah *et al.*, prepared curcumin-loaded phytosomes. Their activity was examined on the GFAP-IL6 mice AD model. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation decreased 1.4-fold Iba-1 + microglia in the hippocampus as compared to the normal food-fed GFAP-IL6 group. Furthermore, it also decreased 1.3-fold of TSPO + microglial cells in the hippocampus as compared to the normal food-fed group. This indicated the neuroprotective effect of the prepared formulation [257].

### in vitro Cubosomes

Cubosomes are lipid-based NPs that form a 3D cubic lattice. They can encapsulate and deliver a wide range of therapeutic agents, including both hydrophobic and hydrophilic drugs. Their unique structure provides stability, controlled drug release, and protection against degradation. By adjusting the lipid composition and surface modifications, drug release kinetics can be modulated, enhancing therapeutic efficacy and reducing side effects [258]. Studies related to cubosomes for the management of AD are given below.

Elnaggar *et al.*, prepared monoolein cubosomes co-loaded piperine which are modified by the Tween (T-cubs). Their *in vivo* activity was examined in male Wistar rats. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation showed an increase of 4.7-fold in the latency test as compared to the positive group. Further, T-cubs also decreased 3.8-fold in the AChE activity as compared to the diseased group. Overall, the result showed that the prepared formulation is effective against AD [259].

Wu *et al.*, prepared cubosomes which are modified by Odorranalectin (OL-Cubs) against the AD, and examined their anti-AD activity on the Sprague–Dawley rats. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation showed an improved in escape latency by the 2-fold as compared to the AD group in the water maze learning test. The overall study

concluded that the OL-Cubs was effective for the improved learning impairment in AD [260].

## Nanoparticles (NPs)

NDDS utilize NPs to enhance the delivery and effectiveness of therapeutic agents. These systems aim to control the size, surface properties, and release of active pharmaceutical ingredients for optimal therapeutic effect. NPs can reduce side effects and are prepared using various techniques. The field of nanomedicine is advancing rapidly, with nano-delivery systems serving as diagnostic tools and delivering therapeutic agents to targeted sites. These nanoparticle-based systems could potentially address the challenges of conventional therapies and contribute to improved clinical outcomes [261].

### Gold NPs (AuNPs)

AuNPs are increasingly being used in NDDSs due to their biocompatibility and adaptable surface. These properties allow for the addition of bioactive ligands, enhancing drug stability and efficacy, and enabling drugs to cross the blood-brain barrier [262]. Recent studies showing promises in treating AD are described below.

Zhang *et al.*, prepared tetrapeptide-anchored gold NPs and analysed their effect on the Kun Ming (KM) mice model against the AD. Results of the study showed that the prepared formulation of AuNPs exhibited an antioxidant effect by increasing the level of SOD, GSH, and catalase and increased the level of AChE in the brain. Hence, improved cognition and managed AD [263].

Hou *et al.*, prepared AuNPs of chiral L- and D-glutathione and examined their activity on the KM mice model against the AD. Results of the study showed that prepared formulation improved memory by 2-fold as compared to AD group. Furthermore, the prepared formulation decreased A $\beta$  plaque deposition in the brain. This indicated the effectiveness of the AuNPs against AD [264].

Tramontin *et al.*, prepared AuNPs for the treatment of AD. They examined their activity in the Okadaic acid (OA) induced male Wistar rats model. Results of the study showed that the prepared formulation improved memory by 1-5-fold as compared to the diseased group. Overall, the Study showed that prepared formulation improved cognition and decreased oxidative stress. Hence, effective against the AD mice model [265].

### Poly (lactic-co-glycolic acid) NPs (PLGA NPs)

PLGA NPs are a promising area of research in NDDS, particularly for neurodegenerative diseases. Their biocompatibility, non-toxicity, and various benefits such as improved drug solubility, protection from enzymatic digestion, increased

targeting efficiency, and enhanced cellular internalization make them an attractive option. Despite their potential, no PLGA NPs are currently on the market or in clinical trials for neurodegenerative diseases and are only at the preclinical stage [266]. Some of the preclinical studies supporting PLGA for management of AD are mentioned below.

Lopez *et al.*, prepared Memantine poly(lactic-co-glycolic) nanoparticle (MEM-PEG-PLGA) NPs and examined its *in vivo* activity on the Male APP<sup>swe</sup>/PS1<sup>dE9</sup> (APP/PS1) and C57BL/6 mice. Results of study showed that the MEM-PEG-PLGA NPs treated group exhibited an increased in the latency by 2.5-fold as that of the untreated group. Additionally, the prepared formulation exhibited a decreased in the level of A $\beta$  plaques and Tau proteins in the brain as compared to the untreated group. Overall study, indicated the anti-AD potential of the developed formulation in the diseased mice [267].

Abreu *et al.*, prepared PGZ-loaded NPs (PGZ-NPs) by the solvent displacement technique against the AD. They examined their activity in the male APP/PS1 mice. Results of the study showed that the prepared formulation decreased 2.5-fold of the A $\beta$  burden as compared to the diseased group. This indicated that the PGZ-NPs improved cognition and were effective against the AD in mice model [268].

Jeon *et al.*, prepared Vitamin D-binding protein (DBP) PLGA NPs by the emulsion diffusion method and investigated its *in vivo* activity on a 5XFAD AD mice model. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation exhibited improvement decreased by 1.3-fold in a cognition-treated group compared to the disease group. Additionally, the DBP-PLGA NPs exhibited treated group decreased A $\beta$  aggregation and reduced neurodegeneration. The overall study indicated that the prepared formulation is effective against AD [269].

Xu *et al.*, prepared rhynchophylline-loaded mPEG-PLGA NPs coated with Tween 80 (T80-NPS-RIN) by nanoprecipitation method against the AD model. They investigate their *in vivo* activity on the C57BL/6 mice and male Sprague-Dawley rats. Results of the study showed that prepared formulation has a neuroprotective effect against AD by decreasing inflammation, oxidative stress, and tau protein in the brain [270].

Vilella *et al.*, fabricated the Polymeric NPs (g7-NPs-Zn) against the AD model and evaluated their anti-AD activity on the APP23 mice. Results of the study showed that the prepared formulation decreased the A $\beta$  plaques by 1.2-fold as compared to the saline group. Furthermore, g7-NPs-Zn reduced the IL-6 by 3-fold as compared to the diseased group. Thus, the study concluded that the prepared formulation was an effective formulation against AD [271].

### Silver NPs (AgNPs)

AgNPs are gaining attention for their potential role in AD treatment. Produced through environmentally friendly

methods, these NPs exhibit properties that enable them to cross the blood-brain barrier, a significant hurdle in brain disease treatment. They have demonstrated an ability to improve drug stability and efficacy, making them suitable carriers for Alzheimer's drugs. Additionally, their antioxidant and anti-diabetic properties could also be beneficial in managing Alzheimer's [272]. Studies related to AgNPs for the management of AD are given below.

Zhang *et al.*, prepared N. khasiana leaf extract-based (AgNPs) and evaluated its Anti-AD activity in the male Wistar rats. Result of study showed that prepared formulation decreased the Barnes Maze Task by 1.2-fold as compared to the negative control group which improved memory. Finally, this study indicated that the AgNPs will be effective in cognition impairment and managing AD [273].

Ittiyavirah *et al.*, prepared an Ethanolic extract based Boerhaavia diffusa AgNPs (AgNPsBD) against the AD mice model and investigated their anti-AD activity in the male Wistar albino rats. Result of the study showed that prepared formulation exhibited an increase of 1.5-fold Morri's water maze test activity as compared to the diseased induced group. This indicated the Enhancement in the ability to learn and remember spatial information in rodents. Also, AgNPsBD increased GSH level by 1.4-fold as compared to the AD group. Overall, the study showed that the formulation is effective against AD [274].

In another study, Ramshini *et al.*, explored the AgNPs against the AD in Wistar rat model. Result of the study indicated a decrease in the escape latency by 2.2-fold & 2.4-fold as compared to scopolamine & lysozyme-treated group. In addition to this, AgNPs also exhibited improvement in memory and spatial learning by inhibiting amyloid fibrils-induced neurotoxicity. Overall event, indicated the potential of AgNPs against AD [275].

### Cerium Oxide NPs (CNPs)

CNPs are a type of nanomaterial with significant potential in various fields. They are known for their biomimetic activities, including acting as superoxide dismutase, catalase, and more. Two forms exist:  $\text{CeO}_2$  and  $\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$ , with  $\text{CeO}_2$  being more stable and commonly used. CNPs have antioxidant properties due to the self-regeneration of their surface which involves redox-cycling between cerium's  $3^+$  and  $4^+$  states. They are used in biomedical applications, such as treating bacterial infections, and have potential in biology and medicine [276].

Danish *et al.*, synthesized Cerium oxide NPs (CNPs) by homogenous precipitation method against the AD and investigated their anti-AD activity on the female Wistar rats. Result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory in the MWT escapes latency by 1.4-fold as compared to AD-induced group. Also, CNPs increased

SOD and GSH activity by 2.7-fold and 4-fold as compared to Scopolamine group respectively [277].

Similarly, Hu *et al.*, synthesized cerium dioxide NPs (LMC) and loaded them with Resveratrol (LMC-RES) against the AD mice model and explored their activity on the 5xFAD mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation increased GSH level by 3-fold and SOD level by 4-fold as compared to  $\text{A}\beta$  induced group. LMC-RES also decreased the  $\text{A}\beta$  1–42 concentration by 1.3-fold as compared to diseased group. Overall, study concluded that LMC-RES have antioxidant properties, reduced ROS, protected neurons, and improved cognition in AD [278].

In another study, Wahle *et al.*, synthesized cerium dioxide ( $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs) against the AD and examined their anti-AD activity on the 5xFAD transgenic mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation decreased the plaque load percentage by the 1.3-fold as compared to control group in hippocampus. Overall study concluded that  $\text{CeO}_2$  NPs was effective against the AD [279].

### Zinc Oxide NPs (ZnO NPs)

ZnO NPs are unique nanomaterials with diverse applications. They are known for their distinct optical and chemical properties, which can be adjusted by changing the NPs' morphology. ZnO NPs are commonly used in electronics and optoelectronics. They also have potential in biomedicine and biotechnology, including enhancing plant growth and productivity, managing diseases, and serving as an antimicrobial agent [280].

Abdulmalek *et al.*, prepared zinc oxide NPs (ZnONP), and evaluated their activity on the male Wistar rats. Result of study showed that the prepared formulation decreased  $\text{A}\beta$ -42 by 4.2-fold as compared to the STZ-induced group. Also, it improved AChE activity by 7.4-fold as compared to diseased group. Overall study indicated the effectiveness of ZnONP against neurodegenerative disorders [281].

Similarly, Kesmati *et al.*, explored cognitive potential of ZnO NPs was evaluated on male NMRI mice. Results of study showed that prepared formulation exhibited improvement in locomotor activity by 1.2-fold as that of the untreated group. In addition to this, the ZnO NPs treated group also showed an increase in step-down latency time by 1.3-fold as compared to untreated group. Hence, it indicated the effectiveness of the developed formulation against AD [282].

### Selenium NPs (SeNPs)

SeNPs are nanomaterials that have attracted attention due to their biocompatibility, bioavailability, and minimal toxicity. They are derived from selenium salts using reducing agents. SeNPs are recognized for their distinct optical and chemical properties and have applications in electronics and

optoelectronics. In biomedicine and biotechnology, they show potential in promoting plant growth, disease management, and as antimicrobial agents [283].

Gholamigeravand *et al.*, prepared Selenium NPs (SeNPs) by chemical Precipitation method against the AD model. They examined their activity on the male Wistar rats. Result of study showed that prepared formulation decreased A $\beta$  plaques in brain by 1.1-fold as compared to STZ-induced group. Furthermore, SeNPs improved memory by 1.2-fold as compared to diseased group. Thus, the study concluded that prepared formulation was effective against AD [284].

In another study, Ji *et al.*, prepared Se-loaded chondroitin sulphate (CS@Se) NPs against the AD and evaluated their anti-AD activity on the SPF-grade male C57BL/6 mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory by 1.5-fold in MWT as compared to AD model group. Furthermore, CS@Se NPs treated group showed an increase in GSH level by 13-fold as compared to the diseased group [285].

Sun *et al.*, prepared chiral penicillamine Se-NPs (L-/D-Pen@Se NPs) against AD and investigated their *in vivo* activity on the APP/PS1 transgenic mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory in MWT by 1.4-fold as compared to AD group. Overall, study showed that the L-/D-Pen@Se NPs improved the cognitive impairment in AD [286].

## Micelles

Micelles are colloidal particles formed from surfactant molecules in a liquid. They are typically spherical, with hydrophilic heads facing the solvent and hydrophobic tails in the center. This formation occurs spontaneously when the surfactant concentration exceeds the critical micelle concentration. Micelles have diverse applications, including in electronics, optoelectronics, and biomedicine. They can enhance plant growth, manage diseases, and serve as antimicrobial agents [287].

In another study, Hagl *et al.*, evaluated anti-AD effect of curcumin-loaded micelles (CMI) on Male C57BJ/6-Thy1-APP751SL mice. Result of the study showed a decrease in A $\beta$ 40 level in the CMI-treated group by 2.8-fold as that of placebo group. Further, CMI treated group exhibited an increase in the level of ATP by 1.2-fold as compared to placebo group [288].

Yang *et al.*, prepared the micelles that targeted the neuronal mitochondria (CT-NM) against AD and investigated their anti-AD activity on the ICR mice, nude mice, and SD rats. Result of study showed that CT-NM decreased the level of A $\beta$  by 3-fold as compared to the diseased group. Further, the prepared formulation increased the level of the SOD and GSH by 2.1-fold and 2-fold respectively. Hence, the

prepared formulation was a potential method for the treatment of AD [289].

## Dendrimers

Dendrimers are highly structured, branched polymers with a typically spherical 3D shape. They are symmetric around the core and are also known as arborols or cascade molecules. Dendrimers are unique due to their structural perfection, usually being monodisperse and highly symmetric. They have diverse applications, including in biomedicine and biotechnology, where they can enhance plant growth, manage diseases, and serve as antimicrobial agents [290].

Gothwal *et al.*, prepared rivastigmine (RIV) loaded dendrimeric (PAMAM-Lf-RIV) against the AD mice model. Their activity was examined on the Wistar rats. Result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory by 1.2-fold as compared to control group. Overall, the study concluded that PAMAM-Lf-RIV was an effective formulation against AD [291].

In another study, Gothwal *et al.* prepared PAMAM-LF-loaded memantine (MEM-PAMAM-Lf) dendrimers. Their *in vivo* activity was evaluated against AD-induced mice. The result of study showed that prepared formulation decreased 1.4-fold AChE activity as compared to AL-induced group. Overall, the study concluded that the MEM-PAMAM-Lf improved memory, and a promising approach against AD [292].

Klementieva *et al.*, prepared Poly (propylene imine) (PPI) glycodendrimers against AD mice model and investigated their anti-AD activity in APP/PS1 transgenic mice AD model. Result of study showed that G4mDS treated group exhibited a decreased in total amyloid burden, fibrillar amyloid burden, aggregation index, and soluble A $\beta$  level by 1.5-fold, 1.3-fold, 1.7-fold, and 1.8-fold of that of untreated group, respectively [293].

## Nanoemulsion

Nanoemulsions, also known as mini emulsions, are stable dispersions of liquid within another liquid, with droplet sizes around 100 nm. Their small size results in properties such as high surface area, stability, transparency, and adjustable rheology. They are formed by shearing a mixture of two immiscible liquids (like oil and water), surfactants, and possibly co-surfactants. They can be oil-in-water or water-in-oil, depending on the core particle. Nanoemulsions are used in areas like drug delivery, food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and material synthesis [294].

Song *et al.*, prepared the Osthole loaded nano emulsion (OST-NE) against the AD mice model. Their anti-AD activity was examined in the Scopolamine-Induced Kunming mice. The result of study showed that prepared formulation



improved memory by 3.7-fold as compared to the diseased group. The OST-NE also increased the SOD activity by 1.1-fold as compared to the Scopolamine-induced group. Thus, OST-NE was an effective AD [295].

Furthermore, Alaqeel *et al.*, prepared the quercetin-loaded nano emulsion (QCNE) against the AD. They investigated their anti-AD activity against the albino male rats. The result of study showed that prepared formulation increased SOD and GSH activity by 1.4-fold and 1.9-fold as compared to AD group respectively. Furthermore, QCNE decreased the level of IL-1 $\beta$  & TNF- $\alpha$  by 1.8-fold and 2-fold as compared to the diseased group. Thus, QCNE indicated the potential against neuronal disease [296].

Ismail *et al.*, prepared the thymoquinone-rich fraction nano emulsion (TQRFNE) against the AD. They examined their anti-AD activity on the Sprague-Dawley rats. Result of study showed that prepared formulation decreased the BACE1 and RAGE levels by 2-fold and 1.7-fold in hippocampus respectively. This indicated the reduction of A $\beta$  secretion in brain. Furthermore, TQRFNE also decreased the level of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 in hippocampus and was effective against AD [297].

Beniwal *et al.* fabricated the citral Nanoemulsion (N-Citral) against the AD model and examined their anti-AD activity on the male rats model. The result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory by 4-fold as compared to the AD-induced group. While N-Citral decreased the level of MDA by 1.2-fold as compared to diseased group. It indicated that the N-Citral was effective against the neurodegenerative disease [298].

### Nanostructured Lipid Carriers (NLCs)

Nanostructured Lipid Carriers (NLCs) are lipid NPs made from a blend of solid and liquid lipids. They remain solid at room and body temperatures. As the second generation of lipid NPs, NLCs were developed to address the limitations of the first generation, such as restricted drug loading and drug leakage during storage. NLCs have diverse applications due to their unique properties. They have potential in biomedicine and biotechnology, including enhancing plant growth, disease management [299].

Shehatae *et al.*, prepared Donepezil and Astaxanthin co-loaded NLCs (DPL/AST-NLCs) by the hot high-shear homogenization technique against AD rats model examined their anti-AD activity on the male albino rats. Result of the study showed that prepared formulation improved memory in the MWT by 3.6-fold as compared to the AD group. Furthermore, DPL/AST-NLCs decreased A $\beta$ 1–42 by 4.3-fold as compared to diseased group. In addition to this, DPL/AST-NLCs also decreased inflammation, and oxidative stress, and improved cognitive impairment [300].

In another study, Shehata *et al.*, fabricated Astaxanthin loaded NLCs (AST-NLCs) by the hot high-pressure homogenization (HPH) technique against AD rat model. They investigated their activity on male albino rats. The result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory in MWT by 2.6-fold as compared to AD group. Furthermore, the prepared formulation decreased A $\beta$ 1–42 content by 3-fold as compared to the diseased group. Overall, the study concluded that AST-NLCs indicated the potential against AD [301].

Anand *et al.*, prepared NLC loaded with the rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate (RHT-NLCs). They examined their In-vivo activity on the albino Wistar rats. The result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory by 2.9-fold as compared to the negative control group. Overall, study concluded that RHT-NLCs were an effective formulation against AD [302].

### Solid Lipid NPs (SLNs)

Solid Lipid NPs (SLNs) are lipid NPs composed of a solid lipid core that can encapsulate both water-soluble and fat-soluble active pharmaceutical ingredients. Typically spherical, their size ranges from 10 to 1000 nm. SLNs have unique properties that make them useful in various fields. They have potential in biomedicine and biotechnology, including enhancing plant growth, disease management [303].

Shivananjegowda *et al.*, prepared Memantine Hydrochloride (MeHCl) and Tramiprosate (TMPS) co-loaded solid lipid NPs (SLNs) against the AD. Their activity was examined on the Albino Wister Rats. Result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory by 3-fold in escape latency test as compared to AlCl<sub>3</sub>-induced group. Also, M+T SLN reduced the A $\beta$  level in AD mice model as compared to diseased group. Overall, study shows the M+T SLN was effective the AD [304].

Similarly, Saini *et al.*, demonstrated ferulic acid SLNs coated with chitosan by the hot homogenization technique against AD and investigated their activity in the STZ-induced Wistar rats. The result of the study showed that prepared formulation promoted an increase in level of GSH, SOD, and Catalase. Furthermore, it reduced the level of AChE. Thereby managed the neurodegeneration and cognition in the AD [305].

Dara *et al.*, fabricated Erythropoietin SLN (EPO-SLN) by the double-emulsion method and examined the activity on the Albino Wistar male rats. Result of study showed that prepared formulation exhibited a reduction in A $\beta$  plaques by 6.5-fold as compared to diseased A $\beta$  induced group. Also, EPO-SLN decreased ROS by 1.5-fold as compared to the diseased group. Overall, study shows that EPO-SLN was effective against neurodegenerative disorders [306].

In another study, Campisi *et al.*, prepared the curcumin SLNs-loaded (SLNs-CUR) by solvent evaporation method against the AD model and examined their activity on the TgCRND8 (Tg) mice. The result of the study showed that the prepared formulation improved memory by 9-fold in Morris water maze test as compared to untreated group [307].

### Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs)

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are minuscule tubular structures made of carbon atoms, with a diameter much smaller than a strand of human hair. Their small size, strength, and ability to be functionalized with various biomolecules make them ideal for targeted delivery to specific cells or tissues. They possess a high surface area and robust adsorption capabilities, which allow for high drug-loading capacity. This makes them a key component in nano-drug delivery systems. They can also penetrate cells, delivering drugs directly to the cytoplasm or nucleus. In the case of neurovascular disorders, CNTs can potentially deliver drugs across the blood-brain barrier [308].

Yang *et al.*, evaluated the potential of single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs) against AD in the Kunming mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation exhibited improvement in memory by 1.1-fold as compared to AD group. Furthermore, it reduced level of AChE and effective against AD [309].

Xue *et al.*, evaluated potential of single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWNT) against AD and examined the activity on the CRND8 mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation decreased p-ULK1/t-ULK1 by 1.7-fold as compared to untreated group. Overall, the study shows that SWNT has a neuroprotective effect against AD therapy [310].

Ranjan *et al.*, evaluated potential of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) against AD model and examined their activity in Male Wistar rats. The result of study showed that the prepared formulation decreased the level of Ascorbic Acid by 2.1-fold, 1.8-fold, and 1.3-fold in brain which enhanced memory. Thus, CNTs are an effective approach for the treatment of the animal model of AD [311].

### Hydrogel

Hydrogels are three-dimensional polymeric networks capable of absorbing large amounts of water and biological fluids are increasingly used in drug delivery due to their unique properties and biocompatibility. They can encapsulate a wide range of drug molecules and control their release over time. Their responsiveness to specific triggers such as pH, temperature, or enzymes allows for targeted drug delivery, reducing potential systemic toxicity. Hydrogels can be formed into various shapes and sizes, enhancing their versatility [312].

**Table IV** Industrial Applications and Clinical Applications for the Treatment of AD for Various Delivery Systems

S No.	Delivery system	Industrial applications	Clinical application for AD	Ref.
1.	Liposome	Drug delivery, Cosmetics and Food industry	Target drug delivery	[317]
2.	Niosome	Drug delivery, cosmetics	Targeted drug delivery	[318]
3.	Exosome	Drug delivery and diagnostics	Biomarkers, targeted therapy	[319]
4.	Transferosome	Drug delivery	Enhanced skin delivery, targeted therapy	[250]
5.	Ethosome	Transdermal drug delivery	Improved skin permeation	[254]
6.	Phytosome	Drug delivery, nutraceuticals	Enhanced bioavailability	[320]
7.	Cubosome	Drug delivery, cosmetics	Targeted drug delivery, sustained release	[259]
8.	NPs	Drug delivery, electronics, textiles	Targeted drug delivery, diagnostics	[321]
9.	Gold NPs	Imaging, electronics, drug delivery	Drug delivery, diagnostics	[322]
10.	Poly Lactic-co-Glycolic Acid NPs	Drug delivery, medical devices	Sustained release, targeted delivery	[323]
11.	Silver NPs	Antimicrobial coatings, textiles	Antimicrobial therapy	[272]
12.	Cerium Oxide NPs	Catalysts, UV filters	Antioxidant therapy	[277]
13.	Zinc Oxide NPs	Sunscreens, coatings, textiles	Antimicrobial therapy, UV protection	[324]
14.	Selenium NPs	Dietary supplements, cosmetics	Antioxidant therapy	[325]
15.	Micelles	Drug delivery, detergents	Solubilizing hydrophobic drugs	[326]
16.	Dendrimers	Drug delivery, gene therapy	Targeted drug delivery, diagnostics	[327]
17.	Nanoemulsion	Food industry, cosmetics	Improved drug solubility	[328]
18.	Nanostructured Lipid Carriers	Drug delivery, cosmetics	Controlled release, enhanced stability	[329]
19.	Solid Lipid NPs	Drug delivery, cosmetics	Controlled release, enhanced stability	[304]
20.	Carbon Nanotubes	Electronics, materials science	Drug delivery, diagnostics	[330]
21.	Hydrogel	Wound care, contact lenses	Sustained release, tissue engineering	[331]

**Table V** Nano-Drug Delivery Systems for AD

S. No.	NDDS	Active drug candidate	Models used	Result	Ref.
1.	CNTs	Berberine	Wistar rats	Improved memory by 3.5-fold as compared to A $\beta$ 1–42 group	[332]
2.	Dendrimers	o-phenylene diamine	Inclusion bodies of ovine prion protein (PrP)	Decreased A $\beta$	[333]
3.	AuNPs	Anthocyanin	Male mice C57BL/6 N	Improved memory by 3.3-fold as compared to the diseased group	[334]
4.	AuNPs	CLPFFD peptide	Capillary endothelial cells	Decreased A $\beta$	[335]
5.	Liposome NPs	Curcumin derivative (CD)	APP/PS1 transgenic mice	Isolate A $\beta$ -42	[336]
6.	Liposome NPs	Peptide iA $\beta$ 5	Capillary endothelial cells	Improved neurodegenerative diseased	[337]
7.	Liposome NPs	Curcumin and nerve growth factor	Male Wistar rats	Managed 1.1-fold AChE Activity as compared to the A $\beta$ group	[338]
8.	Mesoporous silica NPs (MSN)	Rivastigmine	SH-SY5Y cell line	Effective in neurodegenerative diseased	[339]
9.	Mesoporous silica NPs (MSN)	Metal chelator CQ	Endothelial cell line.	Decreased the A $\beta$	[340]
10.	Metallic NPs	Iron oxide	A $\beta$ fibrillation	Improved neurodegenerative diseased	[341]
11.	Polymeric NPs	RVG29 peptide	Transgenic AD mice	Improved memory by 1.4-fold as compared to the saline group	[342]
12.	Polymeric NPs	Piperine	Adult male Wistar rats	Improved memory by 2.5-fold as compared to the diseased positive group	[343]
13.	Polymeric NPs	Iminodiacetic acid	A $\beta$ -42 aggregation/SH-SY5Y cell line	Improved A $\beta$ aggregation	[344]
14.	Polymeric NPs	Epigallocatechin-3-gallate	SH-SY5Y cell line	Inhibited A $\beta$	[345]
15.	Polymeric NPs	Cerium (III) acetate	SH-SY5Y cell line and 5XFAD Transgenic mouse	Decreased oxidative stress in AD	[346]
16.	SLNs	RVG-9R	Caco-2 cells	A promising approach in neurodegenerative diseased	[347]
17.	SLNs	Grape seed extract/ Resveratrol	Endothelial cells	Inhibited A $\beta$ (1–42)	[348]
18.	SLNs	Galantamine hydrobromide	Adult Wistar rats	Increased memory 2.1-fold as compared to the diseased-induced group	[349]
19.	SLNs	Nerve growth factor	Mouse stem cells	Effective in neuronal dysfunction	[350]
20.	SLNs	Rapamycin	SH-SY5Y cell line	Decreased 1.5-fold cell proliferation	[351]

Ribeiro *et al.*, prepared Curcumin-loaded mesoporous silica NPs (MSN-CCM) Hydrogel (HG@MSN-CCM) against the AD and examined their anti-AD activity on the STZ-induced mice female Swiss albino mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation showed that prepared formulation improved memory in open field test by 4.5-fold as compared to negative control group. Thus, Study shows the HG@MSN-CCM improved cognition and acted as a potential formulation against AD [313].

Similarly, Ou *et al.* examined the therapeutic effect of Timosaponin BII-loaded hydrogel (ISGs) on scopolamine-induced AD mice. Result of the study showed that ISGs treated group increased cholinergic M1 receptor in hippocampus of mice by 2-fold as compared to untreated group [314].

Chen *et al.*, prepared timosaponin BII loaded *in situ* hydrogel (ISG) against the AD and evaluated their *in vivo* activity against the C57BL/6J mice. Result of study showed that prepared formulation improved memory in the platform

**Table VI** Clinical Trials Studied for the Treatment of AD

S. No.	Dosage	Allocation/Phase	No. of patients	Outcomes	Duration	Ref.
1.	Donanemab	Randomized Clinical Trial, Phase 3	1736	Donanemab effectively slowed clinical progression at 76 weeks	76 weeks	[352]
2.	Vitamin E+C	Randomized Clinical Trial	78	Reduction of CSF F2-isoprostane levels showed a decreased in oxidative stress	16 weeks	[353]
3.	Oral avagacestat	Randomized Clinical Trial, Phase 2	1358	Avagacestat did not show effectiveness and was linked with adverse dose-limiting effects	2 years	[354]
4.	Pioglitazone	Randomized Pilot Clinical Trial	29	Pioglitazone was generally well tolerated in patients with AD	18 months	[355]
5.	Citalopram	Randomized Clinical Trial	186	1.5-fold improvement in reducing agitation and caregiver distress compared to a placebo	9 weeks	[356]
6.	AZD0530	Randomized Clinical Trial	159	Decrease in hippocampal volume and entorhinal thickness in AZD0530-treated group	52 weeks	[357]
7.	PF-04494700	Randomized Clinical Trial	399	Increased adverse events at high doses while good safety profile at low dose	18 months	[358]
8.	Indomethacin	double-blind controlled study	66	Indomethacin showed a 1.3% improvement in cognitive tests as that of the placebo group	6 months	[359]
9.	NGF gene delivery	Phase 1 Clinical trials	10	Increased NGF expression, enhanced cholinergic function, and improved cognitive performance	22 months	[360]
10.	Insulin	Pilot Clinical Trial	104	Improved delayed memory, changes in A $\beta$ 42 level, and tau protein-to-A $\beta$ 42 ratio	4 months	[361]
11.	Atabecestat	Randomized Phase 2b/3 Clinical Trial	4464	Atabecestat treatment led to dose-related cognitive decline and neuropsychiatric Adverse events	3 months	[362]
12.	Idalopirdine	Randomized Clinical Trials	2525	Adverse events occurred in 55.4–69.7% of participants in idalopirdine groups	24 weeks	[363]
13.	Risperidone	Prospective Clinical Trial	473	No statistically significant differences between risperidone and placebo	8 weeks	[364]

crossing test by 1.4-fold as compared to model group. Further, T BII-ISG improved the distance covered in open field test by 1.1-fold as compared to AD model group. Thus, study concluded the effectiveness of the developed formulation against AD [315].

In another study, anti-AD effect of galantamine loaded hydrogel (Gal) was evaluated on streptozotocin-induced AD Wistar rats. The result of study showed increased in the body weight of rat in Gal treated group by 1.4-fold as that of untreated group. Further, increased escape latency was also observed in Gal treated group by 1.3-fold as compared to untreated group [316].

Few other NDDS formulation studies for the management of AD are discussed in Tables IV and V. Industrial applications and clinical applications for the treatment of AD for various delivery systems are discussed in Table IV. Additionally, Clinical trials, ongoing clinical trials, and patents related to AD are mentioned in Tables VI and VII, and Table VIII, respectively.

### Future prospective

Research on AD is advancing across multiple fronts. In terms of early detection and diagnosis, ongoing efforts are focused on developing more accurate and accessible methods, including biomarkers, imaging techniques, and blood tests, to identify signs of the disease before symptoms appear. Researchers are exploring the concept of precision medicine, tailoring Alzheimer's treatments based on individual genetic and molecular profiles to optimize effectiveness and minimize side effects. In drug development, numerous trials are underway with a focus on medications capable of decelerating or stopping the progression of disease by targeting specific biological processes such as accumulation of beta-amyloid plaques and tau tangles. Non-pharmacological studies, such as lifestyle modifications, cognitive training, and physical exercise, are being investigated for their potential in preventing or delaying



**Table VII** Ongoing Clinical Trials for the Management of AD

Phase/Allocation	Dosage	Description	Enrolments	Study Start date	NCT number	Ref.
Phase 2 or Phase 3/Randomized	Buntanetap	320 mild to moderate Alzheimer's participants in 12-week double-blind trial with buntanetap (7.5 mg, 15 mg, 30 mg) or placebo. Assessments, including psychometric tests, occur at clinic visits. Interim analysis at Week 6.	320	2023-04-01	NCT05686044	[365]
Phase 1/randomized	OLX-07010 Active	A Phase 1 study evaluates OLX-07010, a tau self-association inhibitor, in single/multiple ascending doses in healthy adults, a single dose in elderly participants, and optional food effects in adults.	88	2023-01-20	NCT05696483	[366]
Phase 4	Sodium Oligomannate Capsules (GV-971)	Approved for mild to moderate Alzheimer's, the Sodium Oligomannate (GV-971) study assesses long-term efficacy, safety, and microbiota changes, validating its mechanism for informed clinical use.	800	2021-12-07	NCT05181475	[367]
Phase 2	LY3372689	This study aims to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and the impact of LY3372689 in individuals with early symptomatic AD.	330	2021-09-16	NCT05063539	[368]
Phase 4	Sodium Oligomannate Capsules	Sodium Oligomannate (GV-971), approved for mild to moderate Alzheimer's, demonstrated safety and cognitive improvement. The post-marketing study investigates long-term safety in an expanded population for a comprehensive assessment.	2500	2021-06-02	NCT05058040	[369]
Phase 3/Randomized	Simufilam	The study assesses simufilam's safety and efficacy in mild-to-moderate AD over 76 weeks, examining cognition, function, neuropsychiatric symptoms, biomarkers, and anatomical correlates. Safety is monitored throughout.	1083	2021-11-18	NCT05026177	[370]
Phase 3/Randomized	Simufilam	This 52-week study examines simufilam (PTI-125) for safety and efficacy in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's, focusing on cognition, function, neuropsychiatric symptoms, caregiver burden, and plasma biomarkers. Safety monitored consistently.	750	2021-11-03	NCT04994483	[371]
Phase 2/Randomized	AL002	Phase 2 study assesses intravenous AL002 in early Alzheimer's participants, employing a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled design to evaluate efficacy and safety.	328	2021-01-22	NCT04592874	[372]
Phase 3	Donanemab	Phase 3 TRAILBLAZER-ALZ 2 study assesses N3pG antibody (donanemab) in early symptomatic Alzheimer's, with a double-blind 76-week main study and an additional 78-week extension for prolonged efficacy and safety evaluation.	1800	2020-06-19	NCT04437511	[373]

Table VII (continued)

Phase/Allocation	Dosage	Description	Enrolments	Study Start date	NCT number	Ref.
Phase 2/Randomized	Simufilam 100 mg oral tablet	The study aims to build Simufilam's safety database, assessing its impact on biomarkers, cognition, and neuropsychiatric symptoms in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's over 12 months, with lumbar punctures, plasma biomarkers, and safety monitoring.	200	2020-03-24	NCT04388254	[374]
Phase 1 and Phase 2/Randomized	Pepinemab	Pepinemab safety, tolerability, cognition, and brain metabolism effects studied in mild dementia due to AD. A 52-week randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled trial includes sentinel dosing and FDG-PET assessment.	50	2021-07-22	NCT04381468	[375]
Phase 4	18-F-Flortaucipir	A project enrolls 200 women for a single clinic visit involving cognitive testing, physical function tests, questionnaires, and a blood draw. Neuroimaging includes structural MRI, A $\beta$ , and tau PET scans.	200	2019-06-27	NCT03821857	[376]
Phase 1	Allopregnanolone	A 12-participant study aims to transition Allopregnanolone (Allo) therapy from intravenous to intramuscular administration. PK analysis, dose-finding, and maintenance dosing will occur over 12 weeks.	12	2019-10-01	NCT03748303	[377]
Phase 2/ Randomized	Montelukast buccal film	A Phase IIa study investigates montelukast buccal film in mild to moderate Alzheimer's patients through a 26-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial, assessing treatment impact using various measures.	54	2018-11-26	NCT03402503	[378]
Phase 1	LY3372993	The study assesses safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics in Alzheimer's and healthy participants.	224	2020-07-07	NCT04451408	[379]
Randomized	Astaxanthin	Investigating Astaxanthin's potential as an adjuvant therapy for AD to determine its benefits and efficacy in improving the condition.	50	2018-11-14	NCT05015374	[380]
Randomized	Probiotic K10	Examining urinary cortisol changes to gauge emotional stress impact, measuring at baseline, 45 days, and 90 days. Statistical analyses, including parametric and non-parametric tests, will be employed using Prism software.	104	2023-08-10	NCT06019117	[381]
Phase 3/Randomised	Semaglutide	Research examines if semaglutide benefits early Alzheimer's. Participants receive semaglutide or placebo, with 17 visits over 173 weeks, tests, and a cerebrospinal fluid sub-study at select sites.	1840	2021-05-18	NCT04777409	[382]
Phase 1 and Phase 2	3TC	This open-label study assesses 3TC in early Alzheimer's, focusing on target engagement, CNS penetration, efficacy, and safety. Successful results will inform a larger phase 2 trial.	12	2021-02-15	NCT04552795	[383]

Table VII (continued)

Phase/Allocation	Dosage	Description	Enrolments	Study Start date	NCT number	Ref.
Phase 2/Randomized	Canakinumab	Randomized, placebo-controlled study in mild cognitive impairment or mild Alzheimer's with peripheral inflammation. Platform design allows perpetual investigation of different agents with unique cohorts.	34	2021-10-28	NCT04795466	[384]
Phase 2	JNJ- 63,733,657	JNJ-63,733,657 study assesses if anti-tau antibody slows cognitive decline in Early AD with elevated brain tau. Safety evaluations include AEs, vital signs, ECG, and brain MRI over 232 weeks.	523	2021-01-06	NCT04619420	[385]
Early Phase 1	Rapamune	Open-label pilot study assesses orally administered RAPA's target engagement in CSF and blood, evaluating feasibility and safety in older adults with MCI and early-stage AD for Phase 2.	10	2020-06-01	NCT04200911	[386]
Phase 1/Randomized	ALZ-101	The study assesses ALZ-101 safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity in early Alzheimer's. Double-blind, randomized, parallel-group design evaluates multiple doses.	27	2021-09-30	NCT05328115	[387]
Phase 4	Lithium Carbonate	Pilot-feasibility Randomized Controlled Trial investigates lithium's potential as an anti-dementia agent in MCI. A comprehensive approach includes 7T MRI, neurocognitive assessments, and biomarkers over two years.	80	2017-09-01	NCT03185208	[388]
Phase 2	Valacyclovir	First-ever clinical trial addressing the viral etiology hypothesis of AD. Investigates valacyclovir's impact on cognition, amyloid, and tau in mild AD patients with HSV1/HSV2 antibodies.	120	2018-02-12	NCT03282916	[389]

**Table VIII** Patents Related to AD

S. No.	Therapeutic moiety	Delivery system	Patent No.	Outcomes	Company	Ref.
1.	APOE4 motif-mediated genes	Tablet	US20190338363A1	The invention presents methods to control gene activity, find molecules that block NRF1 from binding to APOE4, and treat Alzheimer's or mild cognitive impairment based on APOE genotype.	Selonterra	[390]
2.	HO R OH HO O H	Tablet	AU2009202023B2	It can treat amyloid and synuclein fibrils and inhibit or relieve mammalian amyloid diseases or synucleinopathies.	Biogen	[391]
3.	sphenopalatine ganglion (SPG)	Tablet	US7640062B2	SPG stimulation can increase cerebral blood flow, reduce amyloid-beta deposition, and slow cognitive decline.	-	[392]
4.	Isolated antibody	Antibody	JP7182316B2	The patent focuses on protein-based methods (e.g., antibodies, peptides) for interfering with generating and clearing certain forms of tau involved in AD.	Eisai Co. Ltd and BioArctic	[393]
5.	2,8-dimethyl-5-(2-(6-methyl-3-pyridyl)ethyl)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1 H-pyrido[4,3-b]indole	Tablet	EP2086538B1	The patent is for an Alzheimer's treatment combining dimebon, which affects the amyloid cascade and mitochondrial function, and donepezil, which boosts acetylcholine levels.	Bioz Ratings For Life-Science Research	[394]
6.	G1/S phase	Tablet	US8921321B2	The patent suggests Alzheimer's therapies using agents to halt neuron cell division, with methods for agent selection and pharmaceutical kits.	Cognition Therapeutics, Inc.	[395]
7.	CpG oligodeoxynucleotide (ODN)	vaccine	JP6784646B2	It targets Aβ peptides and safely induces a strong antibody response without causing unwanted T cell activation or CNS inflammation.	Eisai Co., Ltd	[396]
8.	Pridopidine	Tablet	JP7210620B2	The invention involves using pridopidine to enhance cognitive function and treat AD. It also includes using pridopidine in making a medication for Alzheimer's treatment.	Prilenia Therapeutics	[397]
9.	pooled human immunoglobulin G (IgG)	I.V.	AU2019202459B2	The patent discusses treating Alzheimer's with human immunoglobulin G (IgG). It suggests IgG can slow dementia, especially in severe cases or ApoE4 allele carriers.	Baxter International Inc.	[398]
10.	Antibody	Tablet	JP7210036B2	The patent details a humanized antibody that targets specific tau proteins in AD inhibiting their aggregation and toxicity, and aiding in diagnosis and treatment.	Eisai Co., Ltd. and Eli Lilly Company	[399]
11.	Donepezil	Transdermal	US9248104B2	The invention is about patches that deliver Alzheimer's drugs like donepezil through the skin over 1–7 days.	Eisai Co., Ltd	[400]
12.	Sulfisoxazole	Tablet	CA2722314C	To treat AD by inhibiting cell stress response.	-	[401]

Table VIII (continued)

S. No.	Therapeutic moiety	Delivery system	Patent No.	Outcomes	Company	Ref.
13.	NEU1	lysosomal	US20220406435A1	The patent application is for methods to treat Alzheimer's-related dementia with protective protein/cathepsin A (PPCA).	Biogen and Eli Lilly	[402]
14.	A Erci	Tablet	CN103842362B	The patent discusses compositions with an activating agent like a p38 inhibitor for treating Alzheimer's.	Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd.	[403]
15.	peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR)	Tablet	EP2001503B1	The patent provides experimental evidence linking impaired insulin/IGF signaling to Alzheimer's pathology and discloses an animal model of Alzheimer's.	-	[404]

Alzheimer's onset and managing symptoms. Technology, such as wearable devices and smartphone apps, is being explored to monitor and assess cognitive function, providing valuable data for early detection and disease management. Global collaboration among researchers, healthcare professionals, and organizations is deemed crucial, fostering initiatives and partnerships to pool resources, share data, and accelerate progress. There is a growing emphasis on public awareness and advocacy to reduce the stigma associated with AD with governments and organizations working on policies to support research funding, caregiver support, and improved healthcare access. Staying updated on the latest research findings and breakthroughs is essential, given the dynamic and continuously evolving nature of the field, with reliable sources like scientific journals, health organizations, and research institutions recommended for the most current information.

**Abbreviations** AD: Alzheimer's disease; EoAD: Early-onset AD; LoAD: Late-onset AD; FAD: Family AD; A $\beta$ : Amyloid- $\beta$ ; NTs: Neurofibrillary tangles; NP: Neuritic plaques; NPs: Nanoparticles; NDDS: Novel drug delivery systems; APP: Amyloid precursor protein; NMDA: N-methyl-D-aspartate receptors; BBB: Blood-brain barrier; ELISA: Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay; CSF: Cerebrospinal fluids; PET: Positron Emission Tomography; MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; FDG: F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose; NFL: Neurofilament Light; APOE  $\epsilon$ 4: Apolipoprotein E; PSEN1: Presenilin 1; PCR: Polymerase chain reaction; TNF- $\alpha$ : Tumor Necrosis Factor-Alpha; CRP: C-reactive protein; IL-6: Interleukin-6; CLU: Clusterin; CRP: C-reactive protein; MiRNAs: MicroRNAs; RT-qPCR: Quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction

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**Data Availability** None

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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