For Alzheimer’s and dementia patients, early diagnosis means a chance at a longer life with fewer symptoms.

**Diagnostic Tests Include:**

- **Biomarker Test**: Proteins in the body are tested and analyzed.
- **Cognitive Assessment**: New developing technology detects mental changes.
- **Brain Imaging**: Patients get an MRI or PET scan.
- **Odor Identification**: Loss of smell may be associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

**Certain Barriers Hinder Early Testing:**

- **Coverage Issues**: Limited Medicare coverage for scans.
- **Lack of Awareness**: Patients don’t know the signs and symptoms.
- **Misconceptions**: Cognitive decline is considered a ‘normal’ part of aging.
- **Long Waiting Lists**: Many Americans with Alzheimer’s must wait to see a health care provider.
- **Lack of Treatments**: A scarcity of treatment options deters people from getting testing.

Alzheimer’s disease patients need timely testing and proper care.