



# Age Old Wisdom

## **NEW HELP IN DIAGNOSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

No single clinical test can be used to identify Alzheimer's disease. For now, doctors rely on a comprehensive evaluation that includes a complete health history, physical examination, neurological and mental status assessments, analysis of blood and urine, electrocardiogram, and possibly an imaging exam (such as CT or MRI). Most recently, a new kind of brain scan, which can detect an abnormal protein associated with Alzheimer's disease (amyloid), may play a diagnostic role. The test is a form of "positron emission tomography" (PET). Before the test is conducted, the patient is injected with a chemical tracer (Amyvid) that latches onto amyloid in the brain. The test is only intended for those with symptoms of mild cognitive impairment or full-blown dementia.

Deutsches Altenheim is pleased to present you with interesting and informative topics regarding seniors. Our caring and professional staff understands that seniors' needs can change – even overnight. We are here to assure that whatever care they need will be addressed. To learn more, reach us today. You are invited to tour our senior community at 2222 Centre Street, West Roxbury. Ask about our Schrafft Pavilion for Alzheimer's/Dementia Care.

P.S. Because 30% of people in their 70s have amyloid in their brains and still have minds and memories that function within the normal range, an amyloid PET is not useful as a general test for Alzheimer's.