

Enbrel® for Alzheimer's

Enbrel (etanercept), a prescription drug FDA approved to treat five lifelong inflammatory diseases, is now showing amazing results for patients with either chronic pain or dementia.

FHCN PHOTO BY BOBBY BAISDEN



Patricia says she is thrilled to have her husband and best friend back again.

Patricia O'Konski says she and her 83-year-old husband, Paul, have been best friends for 60 years.

"About four years ago, Paul was diagnosed with Alzheimer's," confides the active 79-year-old full-time government employee. "At first, I noticed that he had started to lose interest in the activities he loved. He was a wonderful fisherman and loved to fish for snook, so he bought a new boat, which we eventually sold because he wouldn't take it out. It was things like that."

Patricia explains that they have alarms on their home: "There were times he actually set them off at three and four in the morning because he was wandering out in the yard. He wouldn't know where he was."

"There were so many things that were going wrong. One day, I was in the kitchen cooking and Paul asked our daughter Paulette, *Who is that old lady in the kitchen?*"

"He didn't know me."

Paul's doctors ran several tests, including imaging scans of his brain, says Patricia. Although there is no single test that can definitively diagnose Alzheimer's disease, a comprehensive examination and medical history can determine dementia-like symptoms.

"They told me he had Alzheimer's and would be in a rest home or hospice within six months," remembers Patricia. "They just said, *Well, he's getting old. He's had a good life.*"

GROVE PLACE SURGERY CENTER

M. L. RICHARDSON III, MD

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For further information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Richardson, please phone Grove Place Surgery Center at (772) 778-3113 for their location at 1325 36th St., Suite B, Vero Beach.

"His doctor said he would give him something to slow down its progression and some B12 shots, but basically that was it."

"It was just like they shut the door."

Hope for Alzheimer's patients

Patricia says she has had her own medical issues: "I've had two hip replacements and my left knee will eventually need replacing," she confides. "In the meantime, though, I'm seeing a pain management doctor for it, so I scheduled an appointment with him."

That physician, M. L. Richardson III, MD, is a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology and a diplomate of the American Academy of Pain Management. Dr. Richardson, who served as medical director and chief of staff at Indian River Memorial Hospital Ambulatory Surgery Center for 15 years,

is now medical director and a co-owner of Grove Place Surgery Center in Vero Beach, where he spends approximately 50% of his time with his anesthesiology practice and the other half of his time serving his pain management patients.

"I had to take Paul with me to the doctor's," recounts Patricia, "and I couldn't just leave him in the waiting room because he would have felt totally lost."

Once Patricia explained the situation to Dr. Richardson, he had just the right answer.

Enbrel® for dementia

Dr. Richardson began telling Patricia about the drug Enbrel®.

"Enbrel is a prescription medicine used to treat various long-term inflammatory diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and plaque psoriasis," informs Dr. Richardson. "As a medication grouped within a class of medications called biologic response modifiers, it works on the immune system, blocking proteins that contribute to the disease process."

Dr. Richardson relates that, while looking for an alternative for epidural steroid injections for his back and neck pain patients, he learned about Dr. Edward Tobinick and the Institute for Neurological Research in California: "Dr. Tobinick, an assistant clinical professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, has invented patented methods for using Enbrel to treat chronic back, leg, arm, and neck pain, as



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. RICHARDSON

Dr. Richardson, seen here with Dr. Edward Tobinick, uses patented treatments with Enbrel to help his patients with Alzheimer's disease and chronic pain.

well as various forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. When I read about the results he was having [see www.nrimed.com], I thought it was too good to be true, so, skeptic that I am, I went out to California to see it with my own eyes."

He says he was overwhelmed by what he saw: "Regarding dementia patients, I spoke with not only his patients, but also with their caregivers, who were amazed at the improvements the Enbrel-based treatments were providing [see www.nrimed.com/AD.videos.html]. While this is not a cure for Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, many of those patients were enjoying a much higher quality of life and were continuing to function at much higher levels than before the treatments began."

"I saw patients coming from all over the world to be treated, and I feel very fortunate to have become one of less than a handful of physicians trained and licensed in the state of Florida in Dr. Tobinick's patented methods, enabling me to use these treatments in the care of my patients here in the Vero Beach area."

"I have to admit that this is the most fascinating development I've seen in medicine since becoming a doctor in 1980."

"I have begun treating patients with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, and it is the only medication I'm aware of that prevents the progression or slows the progression of these diseases and actually improves the patient's quality of life."

Practically back to his old self

Patricia says that Paul got his first shot of Enbrel approximately six months ago.

"He's practically back to his old self," she observes with obvious joy in her voice. "He's doing things he hasn't done for a long, long time."

"Paul cracks jokes and cooks our meals, and does a good job of it. We'll have chicken and noodles one night and a roast with mashed potatoes the next. We go grocery shopping on Saturdays, and he reminds me of the things we need."

"He's also a wonderful house mom during the week. He cleans the floors, dusts, empties the dishwasher, and does the laundry. He also takes care of our little miniature schnauzer, Holly."

When asked about the cost of the treatments, she says: "When Paul was initially diagnosed, I looked into the price of a rest home. This is a lot less expensive."

"And for a man eighty-three years old, he is doing wonderfully." **FHCN**—Kris Kline



M. L. Richardson III, MD, is a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology and a diplomate of the American Academy of Pain Management. This board-certified physician earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi and his medical degree from Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans. Dr. Richardson served his internship in the Department of Surgery at David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, CA, and his residency in anesthesiology at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Department of Anesthesiology, Lackland AFB, TX. He is trained and licensed by the Institute for Neurological Research in the patented method of using prescription Enbrel for chronic neck and back pain and for Alzheimer's and other dementia diseases. Dr. Richardson is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the Society of Ambulatory Anesthesiologists, and the American Academy of Pain Management, among other professional associations.

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