

DMAR NEWSLETTER

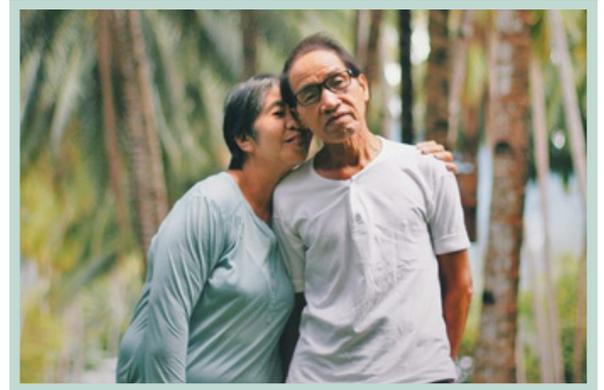
SPRING 2026

DMAR Project Overview

The goal of the University of Washington Decision Making in Alzheimer's Research (DMAR) project* is to investigate the preferences of older adults with dementia and their care partners regarding decisions about supportive care.

DMAR Goals

- Better understand the decision-making processes of older adults with dementia and their care partners regarding supportive care decisions
- Identify the preferences of older adults with dementia and their care partners through a discrete choice (DCE) survey
- Investigate the consistency of preferences over time and the similarities in preferences between older adults with dementia and their care partners



Longitudinal DCE Study

With input from older adults living with dementia, care partners, and dementia care experts we designed a discrete choice experiment (DCE) survey to identify preferences around supportive care.

We administered the DCE survey at 0, 6, and 12 months to older adults with mild cognitive impairment and mild to moderate dementia and their care partners (dyads). We initially enrolled 131 dyads and had 109 dyads at completion.

The study results were analyzed to determine if there were changes in preferences over time and differences between the preferences of older adults with dementia and their care partners.

Person living with dementia

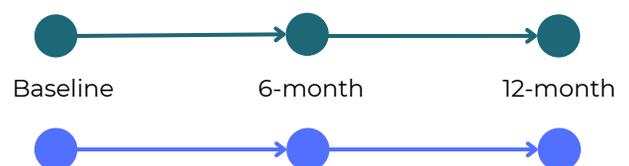
Care partner

Sample DCE Choice Task

	Option A Home Care	Option B Home Care	Option C Assisted Living
 Problems with memory and function	Severe	Severe	Severe
 Changes to support safety	Significant changes	No changes	
 Hours of paid in-home care	1 hour	3 hours	
Choose one:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

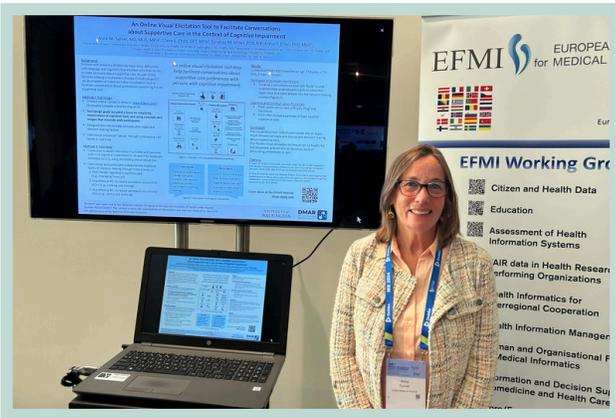
Turner AM, et al. Value in health. 2025. doi:10.1016/j.jval.2025.10.015

DCE Administration Timeline



RESULTS

- Care preferences of all participants remained fairly stable over the 12-month period.
- Home care was preferred by both participant groups across all scenarios.
- With scenarios involving severe health states, there was an increased acceptability of Assisted Living over time, particularly for care partners.
- While some differences were identified, the preferences of older adults with dementia and care partners were relatively similar over time.



Participant Quote

*"I think it helps open up the communication and the things that are anticipated in the future."
(older adult living with dementia)*

TAKEAWAYS



- Using a DCE survey tailored for older adults with dementia, participants were able to imagine the progression of AD/DR.
- Through the DCE survey older adults with dementia and care partners were able to express preferences related to future supportive care.
- DCE methods adapted for older adults with dementia and care partners can facilitate engagement in care planning.

SHARING OUR WORK

- Our findings have been published in 6 journals, including *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, *Dementia*, and *Value in Health*.
- We have presented our research at conferences organized by the Alzheimer's Association (AAIC®) and Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA).
- A complete list of publications and presentations is available at our website: www.dmar-study.com



THANK YOU!

We wish to thank our participants, community partners, Community Advisory Board members, and the UW ADRC staff and investigators for their contributions to this work.

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