



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

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Hamilton's full lifecycle Alzheimer's care draws patients from around the region

DALTON, Ga. (August 7, 2026) – Ruling out Alzheimer's disease in patients with cognitive symptoms used to be a laborious process involving observations, symptom tracking and invasive procedures. Now, it can begin with a simple blood test.

The Roche Elecsys pTau181 blood test received FDA clearance last year, and Hamilton Physician Group – Neurology is among its early adopters — though providers nationwide are rapidly integrating the new approach. The test is highly accurate in detecting the presence of amyloid, a protein that builds up in the brains of Alzheimer's patients.

Ashish Kabir, MD, a board-certified neurologist at Hamilton Physician Group – Neurology, said Hamilton's early adoption of the test demonstrates the healthcare system's commitment to providing comprehensive Alzheimer's treatment and support.

Kabir said Hamilton was one of the first institutions in Georgia and the surrounding region to commit to "full-circle Alzheimer's care" years ago. Hamilton patients have access to anti-amyloid infusions, occupational therapy and speech therapy targeting cognitive impairment, palliative care, partnerships with in-home companies and other resources for both caregivers and patients at all stages.

Kabir said it is still relatively rare for patients to have access to this level of full lifecycle care without having to travel between healthcare systems, some of which are hours apart. As part of that commitment to comprehensive care, Kabir has followed the breakthroughs around Alzheimer's testing for years and was an early advocate of anti-amyloid infusions and of the blood test.

Kabir said the Elecsys pTau181 blood test received FDA clearance in fall 2025 to assist in diagnosing Alzheimer's in patients 55 and older who are experiencing cognitive decline. The test can indicate amyloid buildup in the brain and offers a faster, less expensive and less invasive alternative to traditional PET scans and spinal taps.

While patients with a positive diagnosis need additional testing to inform treatment, the blood test rules out Alzheimer's with a high degree of accuracy so patients needing different types of treatment can receive them sooner and with less invasiveness.

They began infusing the first patient about two years ago and saw success that aligned with the clinical trials.

"Their [patients] cognitive decline has been negligible, and if anything maybe a little bit better than you would have expected to see if they hadn't had Alzheimer's disease," he said.

Sumaiya Khondker, MD, who is Hamilton Medical Center's inpatient neurologist, was instrumental in helping bring the treatment to Hamilton as were Adrian Miller, MD, radiologist, and her team, plus Emergency Department doctors, hospitalists, the pharmacy team and others.

Kabir said those in his field hope treatment will one day evolve to replace infusion therapies with oral routes or subcutaneous injections.

"These are exciting times," he said.

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Photo: Ashish Kabir, MD

About Hamilton Physician Group – Neurology

Hamilton Physician Group – Neurology diagnoses, treats, and manages issues related to the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and muscles. specialize in the care and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, migraines, Parkinson's Disease, seizure disorders, and stroke.

About Hamilton Medical Center

The flagship affiliate for Vitruvian Health's Northwest Georgia region, Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) is a 255-bed regional acute-care hospital that offers major medical, surgical and diagnostic services, including accredited stroke and chest pain centers. Advanced technology and wellness are two significant areas of focus for HMC. Services include the freestanding Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center, Hamilton Diagnostics Center, and Bradley Wellness Center, as well as a Level II trauma center, Peeples Cancer Institute, Heart & Vascular program (including open heart surgery), Hamilton Spine Health and Sport, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and more.

About Vitruvian Health

Vitruvian Health, formerly Hamilton Health Care System, is a not-for-profit, fully integrated health system serving the Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee regions. Vitruvian includes Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga., and Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland, Tenn., affiliated physician practices, walk-in care centers, retirement and skilled nursing centers, a diagnostic center, a cancer institute, an institute for children with developmental delays, and more. Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Vitruvian Health offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly and tranquil healing environment.

The Vitruvian name draws from the organization's recognizable da Vinci-inspired Vitruvian Man icon, which has been a prominent part of Hamilton's logo since 1976. Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man represents harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all aspects of health, perfectly aligning with Hamilton's integrated system of care.