Memantine

Memantine is used to treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease (AD; a brain disease that slowly destroys the memory and the ability to think, learn, communicate and handle daily activities). Memantine is in a class of medications called NMDA receptor antagonists. It works by decreasing abnormal activity in the brain. Memantine may improve the ability to think and remember or may slow the loss of these abilities in people who have AD. However, Memantine will not cure AD or prevent the loss of these abilities at some time in the future.

Memantine has shown promising results on several measures of language and communication in clinical trials.

In a Berthier 2009 study, both Memantine and CIAT alone improved aphasia severity; but best outcomes were achieved combining Memantine with CIAT. Beneficial effects of Memantine and CIAT persisted on long-term follow-up.

1. Berthier ML et al, Memantine and constraint-induced aphasia therapy in chronic poststroke aphasia, Ann Neurol. 2009 May;65(5):577-85