

MEDICINE

## Memory drug is put to the test



Lori Van Buren / Times Union

Dr. Richard Holub listens to the heart of Alzheimer's patient Cindy Mattice of New Baltimore in an examination room at Neurological Associates Albany.

*Alzheimer's treatment trial to involve local participants*

By Claire Hughes

Albany

Cindy Mattice worries about what she'll forget next.

The 55-year-old Greene County resident was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease a year ago. She loses track of things, but is able to hold down a job as a cook at a senior-services facility, where she follows a strict list of items to prepare. But she wonders when she will no longer be able to do that, or — her worst fear — stop recognizing her two

Please see **STUDY A4** ▶

## STUDY

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grown sons or her 3-year-old grandson.

There's only so much she can do. The medicine she takes, donepezil hydrochloride, treats the confusion associated with Alzheimer's and may slow the progression of the disease. But Mattice can only take a low dose. Otherwise, she gets nauseous.

So she's trying something new. Really new.



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Cindy Mattice of New Baltimore talks about living with Alzheimer's with her husband Alton next to her at Dr. Richard Holub's office at Neurological Associates Albany in Albany.

Not even approved yet.

Mattice has signed up to participate in a study for what could become the first new drug for Alzheimer's disease in a dozen years, if it is successful and approved.

She's participating in a clinical trial, called Mindset, for a potential new drug, RVT-101, led by Dr. Richard Holub in Albany.

Holub's Madison Avenue office was chosen as the first site to participate in the trial because of the neurologist's reputation, following 30 years of work in Alzheimer's

is important, because it eliminates the gastrointestinal side effects like nausea and vomiting that prevent some patients, like Mattice, from taking an adequate dose.

In fact, in studies of more than 2,000 people, there's been no side effect clearly related to the drug, Friedhoff said.

"I'm sure in due course we'll find some side effects associated with this drug," Friedhoff said. "All drugs have some side effects, but this one seems to be very well-tolerated."

RVT-101 is intended to be taken in addition to donepezil, so patients like Mattice can participate in the study and stay on their current medication.

The local study will take seven months, and require patients to visit Holub's office for nine visits lasting an hour or two, Holub said. The visits will include both medical tests — monitoring of the blood and heart — and cognitive ones to evaluate changes in memory. Both the patient and caregiver will receive \$50 a visit to cover transportation and other expenses.

Axovant is hoping to eventually get 175 sites involved, in 10 countries, representing every

### Memory screening for RVT-101 study

■ **When:** 6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday

■ **Where:** The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie

■ **Registration requested:** <http://tinyurl.com/q7ojguv>

5,000 scientists at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Washington, D.C., this summer. The Alzheimer's Association characterized the study as one of three to show "positive evidence of efforts to attack the disease."