



Community and Mental Health Services

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Studies

Hearing aids could help cut the risk of dementia, study finds

Wearing hearing aids could help cut the risk of dementia, according to a large decade-long study, which suggests that tackling hearing loss early may help reduce the global burden of the disease. The findings were published in The Lancet public health journal.

Experts call for stricter air pollution targets to tackle dementia risk

Accumulating evidence suggests air pollution may contribute to the risk of developing dementia. Experts at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health in the US looked at 14 studies examining the link between dementia and exposure to fine particulate matter (known as PM2.5). Their findings are published in the BMJ journal.

<u>Impaired muscle function, including its decline, is related to greater long-term late-life dementia</u> risk in older women

Weaker grip strength and slower TUG, and a greater decline over 5 years, were significant risk factors for a late-life-dementia event in community-dwelling older women, independent of lifestyle and genetic risk factors. Incorporating muscle function measures as part of dementia screening appears useful to identify high-risk individuals who might benefit from primary prevention programmes.

<u>The Association of Cognitive Impairment With Depressive Symptoms, Function, and Pain in Hospitalized Older Patients With Dementia</u>

This study provides valuable information, as well as important implications and directions for future work with regard to the relationship between cognitive impairment and multiple clinical outcomes including depressive symptoms, function, and pain among hospitalized older patients with dementia.

Statistics

Dementia leading cause of death in 2022 - Alzheimer's Research UK

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has <u>revealed</u> 'dementia and Alzheimer's disease' were the leading cause of death in 2022. Collectively they accounted for 65,967 deaths (11.4% of the total), up from 61,250 (10.4%) in 2021. <u>Dataset</u>

Advice

Caregivers may have to assist with dental care

A person living with Alzheimer's or another dementia may forget how to brush his or her teeth. Caregivers may have to take a more hands-on approach, as proper oral care is necessary to prevent eating difficulties, digestive problems and infections.

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