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LONGITUDINAL ASSOCIATIONS OF MENTAL DISORDERS WITH DEMENTIA

Is there a link between mental disorders and the risk of developing dementia?

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

PRESENTING QUESTION

Individuals with a mental disorder

COMPARATOR

Individuals without a mental disorder

OUTCOME

Relative to individuals without a mental disorder, those with a mental disorder were at increased risk of developing subsequent dementia. In individuals with dementia, those with a mental disorder developed dementia earlier than those without a mental disorder for a mean of 5.6 years.

SYNOPSIS

This study included individuals born in New Zealand between 1928 and 1967 who were observed for a 30-year period between July 1988 and June 2018. Of 1,711,386 included individuals 50.6% were male. Associations held across sex and age and preexisting physical conditions and socioeconomic deprivation. Compared to individuals without a mental disorder, those with a mental disorder were at increased risk of developing subsequent dementia. These associations were seen across different mental disorders and self-harm behavior and were evident for Alzheimer's disease and all other dementias.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

1- In this population-based study of 1.7 million New Zealand residents over the span of three decades, people with early-life mental disorders were shown to have an increased risk of developing subsequent dementia and younger dementia onset for Alzheimer's disease and all other dementias, after accounting for preexisting physical diseases and socioeconomic deprivation.

2- Improved treatment and prevention of mental disorders in early life might also help improve neurodegenerative conditions and extend quality of life in old age.





