Medical Xpress

Association of cognitive function in adolescence and subsequent risk of subdural hematoma

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Anna Nordström and Peter Nordström of Umea University, Sweden, report their analysis of a prospective nationwide cohort of 440,742 Swedish men in this week's *PLoS Medicine*, finding that reduced cognitive function in young adulthood was associated with increased risk of subdural hematoma later in life, whereas a higher level of education and physical fitness were associated with a decreased risk.

These results need to be confirmed in other large studies.

The authors say: "An exploration of the mechanistic basis for these associations might allow the construction of public health interventions aimed at reducing the population incidence of [subdural hematoma]... The present study was observational and thus inferences about causality should [...] be made with great caution. However, some of the findings in the present study may suggest a cause–effect relationship."

More information: Nordström A, Nordström P (2011) Cognitive Performance in Late Adolescence and the Subsequent Risk of Subdural Hematoma: An Observational Study of a Prospective Nationwide Cohort. *PLoS Med* 8(12): e1001151. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001151

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