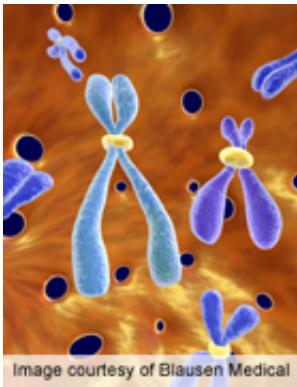


Fat gene variants linked to middle age memory decline

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For white middle-aged adults, there may be an association between variants in a gene associated with fat mass and obesity (*FTO*) and memory decline, according to research published online Nov. 7 in *Neurology*.

(HealthDay)—For white middle-aged adults, there may be an association between variants in a gene associated with fat mass and obesity (*FTO*) and memory decline, according to research published online Nov. 7 in *Neurology*.

Jan Bressler, Ph.D., from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and colleagues analyzed data from 15,792 individuals aged 45 to 64 years at baseline (1986 to 1989) participating in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study. General linear models were used to assess the association between the six-year change in scores on three neuropsychological tests and *FTO* genotype.

The researchers found that, among 8,364 white and 2,083 African-American men and women with no clinical history of stroke, there was a significantly greater mean change in performance on the Delayed Word Recall Test which was associated with two of four *FTO* single nucleotide polymorphisms examined. This association was seen in whites but not in African-Americans and was independent of potential confounding variables, including age, gender, education, diabetes, hypertension, and [body mass index](#).

"Further studies will be needed to clarify the [biological mechanisms](#) and [genetic pathways](#) through which variants in *FTO* can increase susceptibility to decline in verbal memory detectable in middle-aged, community-dwelling adults," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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