

Colonic diverticular disease linked to dementia risk

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(HealthDay)—Colonic diverticular disease appears to be associated with

increased risk of dementia in a population from Taiwan, according to a study published online March 31 in the *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

Yen-Chun Peng, M.D., from the Taichung Veterans General Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan, and colleagues used data from Taiwan's National Health Insurance Research Database to examine the potential increased risk for dementia in colonic diverticular disease. Data were included for 66,377 sex-, age-, and index year-matched patients with colonic diverticular disease and 265,508 control patients without colonic diverticular disease. Incident cases of dementia were identified from 2000 to 2011.

The researchers identified 1,057 dementia cases in the diverticular disease cohort during 315,171 person-years of follow-up. The overall incidence rate of dementia was 3.35 per 1,000 person-years in the diverticular disease cohort versus 2.43 per 1,000 person-years in the control group (P

"We demonstrated that diverticular disease and associated comorbidities are [risk factors](#), with joint effects, for [dementia](#)," the authors write.

"Dementia prevention may be possible by controlling risk factors at the population level. Such risk factors may include [diverticular disease](#) and comorbidities."

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