

# Knee pain, functional impairment associated with depression

February 26 2018

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(HealthDay)—Knee pain and functional impairments in elderly

individuals are associated with the development of depressive symptoms, according to a study published online Feb. 14 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Keiko Sugai, M.D., Ph.D., from Keio University School of Medicine in Tokyo,, and colleagues performed a community-based prospective cohort study to examine the association between knee [pain](#) and function and depressive symptoms in 573 Japanese adults aged 65 and older without depressive symptoms at baseline.

The researchers found that over two years of follow-up, 11.9 percent of participants developed depressive symptoms. Pain and functional impairment were associated with depressive [symptom](#) development. The factors most strongly associated with development of depressive symptoms included pain at night while in bed (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 2.6) difficulty putting on socks (aOR, 3.7), difficulty getting into and out of a car (aOR, 3.4), and difficulty taking off socks (aOR, 3.1).

"Examining elderly people's responses to questions about pain at night and difficulties performing daily activities may be an efficient way of identifying those at high risk of developing [depressive symptoms](#)," the authors write.

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Citation: Knee pain, functional impairment associated with depression (2018, February 26)  
retrieved 19 April 2024 from  
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-02-knee-pain-functional-impairment-depression.html>

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