

Intellectual activities in later life may cut dementia risk

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(HealthDay)—Active participation in intellectual activities among adults

aged 65 years or older is associated with reduced risk of dementia, according to a study published online May 30 in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Allen T.C. Lee, M.B.Ch.B., from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and colleagues conducted a longitudinal study among 15,582 community-living Chinese individuals aged 65 years or older at baseline who were free of [dementia](#). Baseline evaluations were conducted between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2005, and follow-up assessments were performed between Jan. 1, 2006, and Dec. 31, 2012.

The researchers found that during a median follow-up period of five years, 1,349 individuals (8.7 percent) developed dementia. After those who developed dementia within three years after baseline were excluded and after adjustment for health behaviors, physical and psychiatric comorbidities, and sociodemographic factors, the estimated odds ratio for incident dementia was 0.71 for those with intellectual activities at baseline.

"Active participation in intellectual activities, even in late life, might help delay or prevent dementia in older adults," the authors write.

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