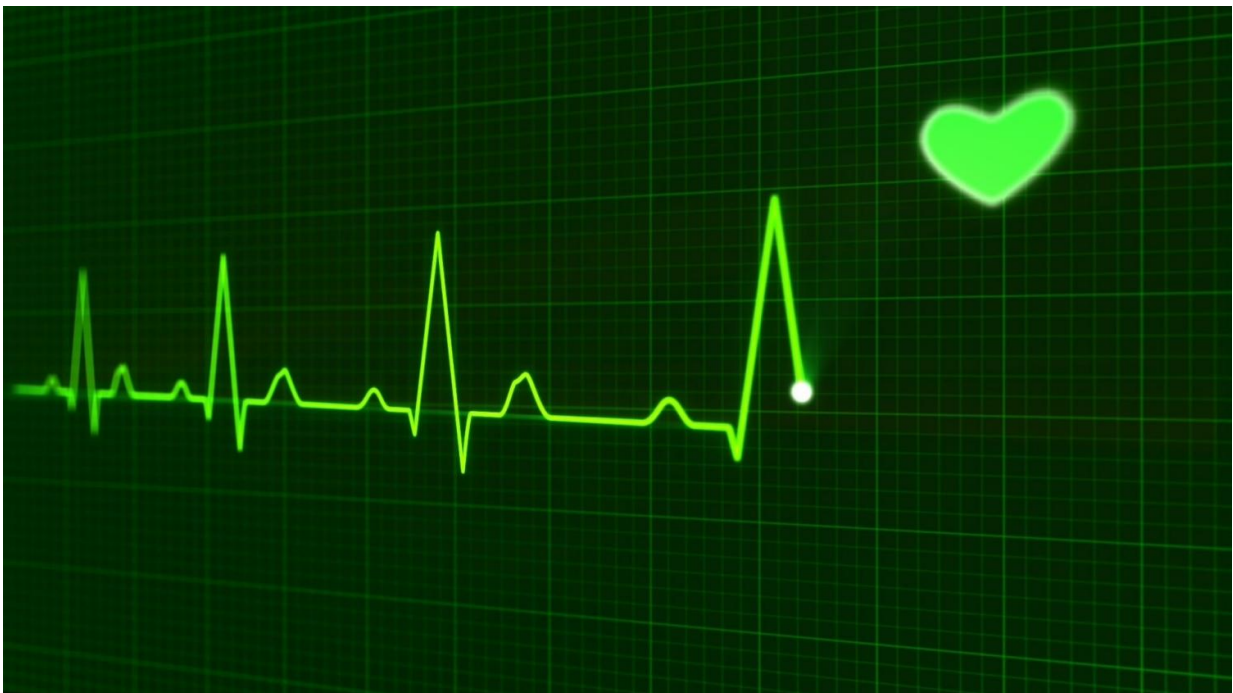


PCSK9 inhibitor with statin does not cause loss in memory, mental skills in high-risk patients

May 4 2020



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Heart disease patients taking evolocumab in addition to a statin to achieve extremely low levels of cholesterol do not show increased incidence of neurocognitive impairments, including memory loss or reduction in executive functions (mental skills), while at the same time

have a decrease in recurrent cardiovascular events such as stroke and heart attack, according to a study published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* that examined the cognitive function of the entire FOURIER cohort at two years.

Statins are used to reduce low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), or bad cholesterol, and prevent [heart disease](#) and stroke. However, some high-risk patients need to take PCSK9 inhibitors combined with a maximally tolerated statin or other lipid-lowering therapies to reduce their LDL-C even more. While prior research has shown that [heart disease patients](#) do not experience adverse neurocognitive effects when taking PCSK9 inhibitors with statin to treat bad cholesterol, until now there has not been a large-scale trial to investigate the impact of using evolocumab and statin to achieve very low LDL-C levels on patient-reported cognition.

Researchers in this study looked at the self-reported Everyday Cognition study results from 22,655 patients in the original FOURIER trial, which was completed after a median duration of 2.2 years. The percentage of patients who reported [cognitive decline](#) at the end of the study was similar for placebo vs. those taking evolocumab, both for [total score](#) 3.6% vs. 3.7%, respectively, and for subdomains (memory 5.8% vs. 6% and total executive function 3.6% vs. 3.7%, respectively). The proportion reporting cognitive decline was similar in patients who achieved very low LDL-C levels (

Citation: PCSK9 inhibitor with statin does not cause loss in memory, mental skills in high-risk patients (2020, May 4) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-pcsk9-inhibitor-statin-loss-memory.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.