

Vitamin E, selenium supplements did not prevent dementia

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Limitations of the study include losing about half of the participants to long-term follow-up during the transition from a [randomized clinical trial](#) to a cohort study. Publicity about the negative effect of supplements also may have played a role, according to the authors.

"The supplemental use of vitamin E and selenium did not forestall dementia and are not recommended as preventive agents. This conclusion is tempered by the underpowered study, inclusion of only men, a short supplement exposure time, dosage considerations and methodologic limitations in relying on real-world reporting of incident cases," the article concludes.

More information: *JAMA Neurol.* Published online March 20, 2017. [DOI: 10.1001/jamaneurol.2016.5778](#)

Antioxidant supplements vitamin E and selenium - taken alone or in combination - did not prevent dementia in asymptomatic older men, according to a study published online by *JAMA Neurology*.

Antioxidants as potential treatment for cognitive impairment or dementia have been of interest for years because [oxidative stress](#) has been implicated as a dementia pathway.

The Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease by Vitamin E and Selenium (PREADViSE) clinical trial initially enrolled 7,540 older men who used the supplements for an average of about five years and a subset of 3,786 men who agreed to be observed longer. The men received either vitamin E, [selenium](#), both or a placebo.

The incidence of dementia (325 of 7,338 men [4.4 percent]) was not different among the four study groups, according to the results in the article by Richard J. Kryscio, Ph.D., of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and coauthors.

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