

Studies

[A genetic link between risk for Alzheimer's disease and severe COVID-19 outcomes via the OAS1 gene](#)

A study published in Brain has found a link between genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease and susceptibility to critical illness with COVID-19 centred on OAS1, a finding with potential implications for future treatments of Alzheimer's disease and COVID-19, and development of biomarkers to track disease progression.

[Anticoagulant prescribing for atrial fibrillation and risk of incident dementia](#)

Incident electronic health record recorded dementia and mild cognitive impairment were less common among patients prescribed direct oral anticoagulants for new atrial fibrillation compared with those prescribed vitamin K antagonists.

[Shingles, Zostavax vaccination and risk of developing dementia: a nested case-control study—results from the UK Biobank cohort](#)

This study found that a history of shingles was not associated with an increased risk of dementia. In subjects who were eligible for the immunisation and vaccinated with Zostavax, there was a reduced risk of developing dementia.

[Performing arts for dementia carers: feasibility and acceptability of a new multi-modal intervention](#)

Review of a study of a new multi-modal performing arts intervention programme for carers of people with dementia, which suggests this approach is feasible and acceptable.

Cochrane Clinical Answer

[What are the benefits and harms of withdrawing cholinesterase inhibitors in people with dementia?](#)

For people with mild to severe dementia, moderate-certainty evidence shows that withdrawing cholinesterase inhibitors probably severely worsens their long-term (≥ 12 months) cognitive function and functional status, with minimal to no important difference in neuropsychiatric status. The evidence for shorter follow-up is similar to that for long-term effects but is more uncertain.