

## Drug Information Center

### Statin use and incident dementia

Statins are lipid lowering agents, working by inhibition of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A reductase. The major benefit of statins is reducing cardiovascular risks through different mechanisms to prevent many diseases [1, 2]

A health alert issued in the early 2012 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has raised serious concerns about the adverse effects of statin-associated confusion and memory loss in the elderly people [3].

So different reports studied the effect of statins on dementia [2,4-6].Some reports stated that there is no association between statins use and dementia incidence and further researches are needed because all those studies are observational and no prospective trials studied the effect of statins on dementia [2,4,5].Nested case controlled and population based cohort studies have showed protective effect on cognitive , dementia and Alzheimer disease in elderly patients.[6]

A new cohort study held in Taiwan and published on March ,2014 ; demonstrated that “Compared to nonusers, statin users had a significantly lower risk of incident dementia (hazard ratio [HR], 0.78; 95% CI, 0.72–0.85, p b 0.001), the potency and the cumulative duration of statin utilized were associated with the reducing risk of dementia. After stratifying by gender, the risk of incident dementia was lower in female statin users (HR, 0.76; 95% CI, 0.68–0.85, p b 0.001) than in male statin users (HR, 0.86; 95% CI, 0.75–0.98, p =0.024), higher potency and longer cumulative duration of statin use were required for reducing the risk of incident dementia in male patients than in female patients” [6].

In-conclusion, many studies demonstrated different results regarding statins and incidence of dementia and further studies are needed to clarify the positive effect of statins on dementia.

## References

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