

# The Role of Lifestyle Factors and Sleep Duration for Late-Onset Dementia: A Cohort Study

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## Abstract.

**Background:** The role of lifestyle factors and sleep for dementia is uncertain.

**Objective:** To examine the associations of major lifestyle factors and sleep duration with risk of late-onset dementia.

**Methods:** We used data from a population-based cohort of 28,775 Swedish adults who were  $\geq 65$  years of age and completed a questionnaire about lifestyle and other modifiable factors in the autumn of 1997. Dementia cases were ascertained by linkage with the Swedish National Patient Register.

**Results:** During a mean follow-up of 12.6 years, dementia was diagnosed among 3,755 participants (mean age at diagnosis  $83.2 \pm 5.1$  years). There were no associations of an overall healthy diet (defined by a modified Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension Diet score or a Mediterranean diet score), alcohol and coffee consumption, or physical activity with dementia incidence. Compared with never smokers, dementia risk was increased in former and current smokers (hazard ratio [95% confidence interval] = 1.13 [1.04–1.23] and 1.10 [1.00–1.21], respectively). Extended time of sleep ( $>9$  h per night) was associated with an increased risk of dementia. However, this association appeared to be related to a reverse causation effect since the association did not remain after exclusion of cases diagnosed within the first five or ten years of follow-up.

**Conclusions:** This study found no evidence that major lifestyle factors, aside from smoking, or sleep duration influence the risk of dementia.

Keywords: Cohort studies, dementia, diet, lifestyle, prospective studies, sleep

## INTRODUCTION

Dementia is a syndrome caused by neurodegeneration, with Alzheimer's disease and vascular, Lewy body, and frontotemporal dementia being the most common underlying pathologies [1]. The number of people living with dementia was about 47 million in 2015, and this number is expected to triple by 2050 [2]. Identification of risk factors for dementia

is therefore a public health priority. The chief risk factor for dementia is age, and the age of 65 years is commonly used to classify dementia patients in early- and late-onset groups. Family history and genetic susceptibility genes such as the apolipoprotein  $\epsilon 4$  allele also play an important role in the development of dementia [3]. However, none of these factors are modifiable. Observational studies have provided some evidence that lifestyle factors, such as a healthy diet, moderate alcohol and coffee consumption, smoking, and regular physical activity, may influence the risk of dementia but results are not consistent [2–15]. The inconsistent findings may be related to residual

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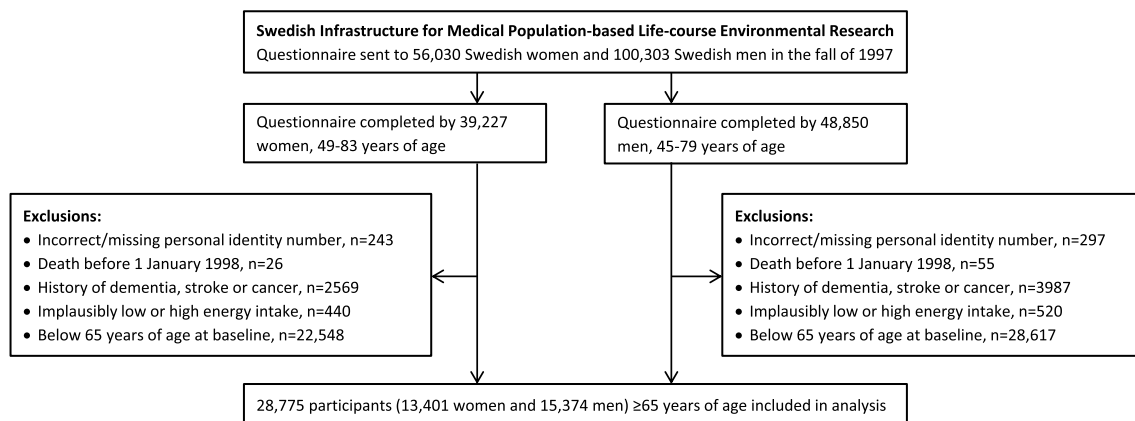


Fig. 1. Flow chart of participants.

confounding, reverse causation bias, or small sample sizes, leading to a spurious association or lack of association.

Besides lifestyle factors, sleep quality such as long sleep duration, insomnia, and sleep disturbances have been linked to risk of dementia in some but not all observational studies [16–23]. A potential issue is that a clinical diagnosis of dementia is usually preceded by a long preclinical phase [24], and dementia often leads to sleep disturbances [25]. It remains unclear whether extended time of sleep and disturbed sleep are causally related to an increased risk of dementia or are consequences of the disease.

To clarify the potential role of lifestyle factors for the development of dementia, we used data from a large population-based cohort study of Swedish adults to assess the associations of an overall healthy diet, alcohol and coffee consumption, smoking, and physical activity with incidence of late-onset dementia. Furthermore, we examined whether long sleep duration is associated with risk of dementia. To address the question of potential reverse causality (that is, preclinical dementia leads to extended time of sleep, and not vice versa), we repeated the analyses after exclusion of cases diagnosed during the first five or 10 years of follow-up.

## METHODS

### Study population

We used data from the National Research Infrastructure SIMPLER (Swedish Infrastructure for Medical Population-based Life-course Environmental Research, previously the Swedish Mammography

Cohort and the Cohort of Swedish Men). Eligible for inclusion in the study were all women who were born 1914–1948 and residing in Uppsala and Västmanland counties and all men born 1918–1952 and residing in Västmanland and Örebro counties. Participants completed a questionnaire about diet, beverage consumption, lifestyle factors, and other risk factors for aging-associated diseases in the autumn of 1997. They are well representative of the Swedish population in terms of age distribution, educational attainment, and prevalence of obesity [26]. To form the analytic cohort for the present analysis of potentially modifiable risk factors for late-onset dementia, we excluded those with an erroneous or a missing personal identity number (as they could not be followed up through population-based registers); those with a previous diagnosis of dementia, stroke, or cancer (identified through record linkage with the Swedish National Patient Register); those with implausibly low or high energy intake (i.e., 3 SDs from the log<sub>e</sub>-transformed mean energy intake in women and men separately), probably reflecting careless completion of the questionnaire; and those below 65 years of age (Fig. 1). This left 28,775 participants (13,401 women and 15,374 men), 65 to 83 years of age, for analysis. The Regional Ethical Review Board at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden, approved the study.

### Exposure assessment

In the autumn of 1997, participants completed a questionnaire that sought information on diet, coffee and alcohol consumption, smoking, physical activity (walking/bicycling and exercise), body weight and height, sleep duration, educational level, and history

of hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and diabetes. Information on average food consumption over the past year was obtained through a validated 96-item food frequency questionnaire [27].

We created two healthy dietary patterns using modified versions of the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet [28, 29] and Mediterranean (MED) diet [29]. The modified DASH diet included fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products as “healthy foods” and meat and sweetened beverages as less healthy foods. The modified MED diet included fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes, whole grains, and fish as healthy foods, and full-fat dairy foods and red meat and processed meat as less healthy foods. The modified MED diet score also included olive oil use. We did not include alcohol as component of the MED diet because alcohol consumption was analyzed as a separate lifestyle factor. Participants were classified into quintiles according to their consumption of each food. For the “healthy foods” participants were given a score from 1 to 5 from being in the lowest to the highest quintile of consumption. Scores were reversed for the foods considered to be less healthy. The scores were added up to create a DASH diet score that ranged from 7 to 35, and a MED diet score that ranged from 8 to 40. Higher scores indicate higher adherence to the healthy dietary patterns. We categorized participants into sex-specific quartiles according to their DASH and MED diet scores.

Participants reported their average consumption, over the previous year, of coffee (in cups per day; one cup was specified as 150 mL), light beer (alcohol by volume <2.25%), beer (2.8–3.5%), strong beer (4.4–5.6%), wine (12–13.5%), fortified wine (15–22%), and liquor (40%). Alcohol (ethanol) intake was calculated as the sum of consumption of the different beverages, taking into account the frequency and amount consumed at each occasion and the alcohol content. We converted alcohol consumption into drinks per week assuming that one standard drink contains 12 grams of alcohol.

Pack-years of smoking were calculated by multiplying the number of packs smoked per day by the number of years the participant had smoked. The questions on physical activity have been previously validated and described in detail [30, 31]. Briefly, the questionnaire had six predefined categories for walking/cycling (almost never, <20 min/day, 20–40 min/day, 40–60 min/day, 1–1.5 h/day, and > 1.5 h/day) and five categories for leisure-time exercise (<1 h/week, 1 h/week, 2–3 h/week, 4–5 h/week,

and >5 h/week). In the present study, we combined the two highest categories for each physical activity measure (due to few participants in the highest categories) resulting in five and four exposure categories for walking/bicycling and exercise, respectively.

#### *Case ascertainment and follow-up*

Dementia cases were identified by record linkage with the Swedish National Patient Register, which covers in-patient care in Sweden since 1987 and out-patient visits from private and public caregivers since 2001. Information on deaths within the cohort was obtained from the Swedish Cause of Death Register. Participants were followed up from January 1, 1998 to the date of diagnosis of dementia, date of death, or December 31, 2014, whichever occurred first.

#### *Statistical analysis*

Hazard ratios (HR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were derived using Cox proportional hazards regression models with age as the time variable. In addition to age, all analyses were adjusted for sex (as a stratum variable). The multivariable model further included adjustment for educational attainment (less than high school, high school, or university), body mass index (weight divided by the square of height; <22.5, 22.5–24.9, 25.0–29.9, or  $\geq 30$ ) kg/m<sup>2</sup>), and history of hypertension (yes/no), hypercholesterolemia (yes/no), and diabetes (yes/no). In the multivariable model, each lifestyle factor was adjusted for the other lifestyle factors and sleep through inclusion in the same model. There was no evidence of significant violation of the proportional hazards assumption, as evaluated by a test based on Schoenfeld residuals.

Analysis stratified by sex was conducted. To evaluate whether reverse causation bias may have influenced the results for sleep duration and dementia risk, we repeated the analyses after exclusion of dementia cases diagnosed within the first five or 10 years of follow-up. All statistical tests were two-sided. The statistical analyses were conducted in SAS (version 9.4, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

## **RESULTS**

The mean follow-up was 12.6 years (363,357 person-years). During this period, dementia was diagnosed among 3,755 participants (2,022 women and

Table 1  
Baseline characteristics of the study population

Characteristic*	All participants (n = 28,775)	Women (n = 13,401)	Men (n = 15,374)
Age, y	71.6 (4.5)	72.0 (4.7)	71.2 (4.2)
Postsecondary education, %	8.4	7.7	8.9
Body mass index, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	25.4 (3.6)	25.2 (3.9)	25.6 (3.3)
History of hypertension, %	32.0	29.5	34.1
History of hypercholesterolemia, %	14.9	10.2	18.9
History of diabetes, %	8.8	7.2	10.3
DASH diet score <sup>†</sup>	21.6 (4.4)	21.6 (4.4)	21.6 (4.3)
MED diet score <sup>†</sup>	22.5 (4.7)	22.5 (4.7)	22.6 (4.6)
Coffee consumption, cups/day	3.0 (1.7)	2.9 (1.6)	3.1 (1.8)
Alcohol consumption, drinks/week <sup>‡</sup>	5.2 (8.9)	2.8 (4.7)	7.1 (10.7)
Current smoker, %	19.4	15.9	22.4
Walking/bicycling $\geq$ 40 min/day, %	40.3	38.8	41.6
Leisure-time exercise $\geq$ 2 h/week, %	66.8	62.2	70.5
Sleep duration, h/night	7.2 (1.2)	7.1 (1.2)	7.4 (1.1)

\*Values are means ( $\pm$ standard deviation) if not otherwise indicated. <sup>†</sup>A measure of an overall healthy diet. The DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet score ranges from 7 (minimal adherence) to 35 (maximal adherence). The MED (Mediterranean) diet score ranges from 8 (minimal adherence) to 40 (maximal adherence). <sup>‡</sup>Among current drinkers.

1,733 men). The mean age at diagnosis was 83.2 ( $\pm$ 5.1) years. Baseline characteristics of the study population are shown in Table 1.

Among the lifestyle factors, only smoking was associated with risk of dementia (Table 2). Compared with never smokers, the multivariable HRs (95% CI) of dementia were 1.13 (95% CI 1.04–1.23) for former smokers and 1.10 (95% CI 1.00–1.21) for current smokers. Current smokers of at least 20 pack-years had a 17% increased risk of dementia (HR 1.17; 95% CI 1.02–1.34). Extended time of sleep was associated with an increased risk of dementia (Table 2). The multivariable HR for  $>9$  h of sleep/night compared with 7.1–9 h/night was 1.54 (95% CI 1.27–1.85). However, the association did not remain after exclusion of cases diagnosed during the first five years (HR 1.22; 95% CI 0.97–1.52) or 10 years (HR 1.03; 95% CI 0.76–1.40) of follow-up. The associations of the lifestyle factors and sleep duration with dementia risk were similar in women and men (Table 2).

## DISCUSSION

Findings from this cohort study indicate that smoking but no other lifestyle factors influence the risk of dementia. Long sleep duration was associated with an increased risk of dementia in the overall analysis but this association did not remain after removing cases diagnosed during the first five or 10 years of follow-up.

We have previously shown that high adherence to healthy dietary patterns, including the modified

DASH and MED diets, are inversely associated with risk of cardiovascular disease [28, 32] and cancer [29] as well as with all-cause mortality [33, 34] in this study population. However, the modified DASH and MED diets were not found to be associated with risk of dementia in the present analysis. Previous cohort studies assessing the association of a MED-like diet with risk of dementia were based on small sample sizes (ranging from 923 [8] to 2,258 [4]) and yielded inconsistent results, with an inverse association found in some studies [4, 5, 8] but not in other [6, 7]. Other studies have found that the DASH diet [8], but not a Healthy Diet Indicator or a low carbohydrate and high protein diet score [7], is inversely associated with dementia risk.

Prospective studies of coffee [13, 14] consumption in relation to dementia have produced conflicting results. A meta-analysis of six studies including 31,399 individuals and 2873 cases showed that moderate (1–2 cups/day) but not high ( $>3$  cups/day) coffee consumption was associated with a reduced risk of dementia [13]. In contrast, recent results from a multi-ethnic cohort study of 185,855 individuals, including 1,404 cases, showed a borderline significant positive association between coffee consumption and risk of Alzheimer's disease (HR = 1.07 [95% CI 1.00–1.15] per 1 cup/day increase in coffee consumption) [14]. Furthermore, a Mendelian randomization study found that genetic predisposition to consume more coffee was associated with higher risk of Alzheimer's disease [35].

Table 2

Associations of lifestyle factors and sleep duration with Alzheimer's disease among 28,775 Swedish adults  $\geq 65$  years of age, 1998–2014

Modifiable factor	All participants				Women		Men	
	Cases <sup>a</sup>	Person-years <sup>a</sup>	Age- and sex-adjusted HR (95% CI)	Multivariable HR (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>	Cases <sup>a</sup>	Multivariable HR (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>	Cases <sup>a</sup>	Multivariable HR (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>
<b>DASH diet score</b>								
Quartile 1	921	84,732	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	503	1.00 (reference)	418	1.00 (reference)
Quartile 2	916	89,802	0.96 (0.88–1.05)	0.96 (0.88–1.06)	509	1.02 (0.90–1.15)	407	0.90 (0.79–1.04)
Quartile 3	913	91,126	0.94 (0.86–1.03)	0.94 (0.85–1.03)	498	0.97 (0.85–1.10)	415	0.90 (0.78–1.03)
Quartile 4	1005	97,696	0.98 (0.90–1.08)	0.96 (0.87–1.05)	512	0.95 (0.84–1.08)	493	0.97 (0.84–1.11)
<b>Mediterranean diet score</b>								
Quartile 1	1055	95,348	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	587	1.00 (reference)	468	1.00 (reference)
Quartile 2	877	88,237	0.93 (0.85–1.01)	1.03 (0.88–1.21)	465	1.09 (0.89–1.33)	412	0.92 (0.70–1.21)
Quartile 3	836	82,319	0.94 (0.86–1.03)	1.11 (0.95–1.31)	450	1.11 (0.91–1.35)	386	1.10 (0.84–1.43)
Quartile 4	987	97,452	0.96 (0.88–1.05)	1.12 (0.96–1.31)	520	1.13 (0.93–1.38)	467	1.08 (0.84–1.41)
<b>Coffee consumption</b>								
<1.0 cups/day	176	17,351	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	95	1.00 (reference)	81	1.00 (reference)
1.0–2.9 cups/day	1483	143,919	0.98 (0.84–1.14)	0.99 (0.85–1.16)	807	0.94 (0.76–1.17)	676	1.07 (0.85–1.35)
3.0–4.9 cups/day	1383	133,880	1.01 (0.86–1.18)	1.03 (0.88–1.21)	774	1.03 (0.83–1.28)	609	1.03 (0.82–1.31)
$\geq 5.0$ cups/day	486	49,254	1.07 (0.90–1.27)	1.07 (0.90–1.28)	225	1.11 (0.87–1.41)	261	1.07 (0.83–1.37)
<b>Alcohol consumption</b>								
Lifelong abstainer	589	48,928	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	462	1.00 (reference)	127	1.00 (reference)
Former drinker	218	20,591	1.05 (0.89–1.22)	0.97 (0.83–1.15)	47	0.80 (0.59–1.09)	171	1.12 (0.89–1.42)
Current <1 drink/week	835	72,747	1.04 (0.94–1.16)	1.03 (0.92–1.14)	605	0.98 (0.87–1.11)	230	1.18 (0.94–1.47)
Current 1–6 drinks/week	1424	145,586	0.98 (0.89–1.09)	0.96 (0.86–1.06)	703	0.97 (0.85–1.09)	721	1.01 (0.83–1.23)
Current 7–14 drinks/week	389	44,608	0.96 (0.84–1.10)	0.93 (0.81–1.07)	87	0.85 (0.67–1.08)	302	1.03 (0.83–1.28)
Current 14–21 drinks/week	81	9482	0.98 (0.77–1.24)	0.94 (0.74–1.19)	10	0.94 (0.50–1.76)	71	1.01 (0.75–1.36)
Current >21 drinks/week	71	8489	1.00 (0.78–1.29)	0.94 (0.73–1.21)	6	0.63 (0.28–1.42)	65	1.06 (0.78–1.44)
<b>Smoking</b>								
Never	2100	196,510	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	1432	1.00 (reference)	668	1.00 (reference)
Former (any pack-years)	1037	103,271	1.13 (1.04–1.22)	1.13 (1.04–1.23)	329	1.19 (1.05–1.35)	708	1.10 (0.98–1.23)
<20 pack-years <sup>c</sup>	598	59,075	1.12 (1.02–1.23)	1.12 (1.02–1.24)	232	1.14 (0.98–1.31)	366	1.11 (0.97–1.27)
$\geq 20$ pack-years <sup>c</sup>	275	31,122	1.10 (0.96–1.25)	1.10 (0.96–1.26)	62	1.37 (1.05–1.77)	213	1.04 (0.88–1.22)
Current (any pack-years)	618	63,576	1.11 (1.01–1.21)	1.10 (1.00–1.21)	261	1.05 (0.91–1.20)	357	1.14 (1.00–1.30)
<20 pack-years <sup>c</sup>	281	29,691	1.02 (0.90–1.15)	1.01 (0.89–1.15)	156	1.00 (0.85–1.19)	125	1.02 (0.84–1.24)
$\geq 20$ pack-years <sup>c</sup>	248	26,931	1.18 (1.03–1.34)	1.17 (1.02–1.34)	86	1.08 (0.86–1.34)	162	1.23 (1.03–1.47)
<b>Walking/bicycling</b>								
Almost never	424	38,891	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	252	1.00 (reference)	172	1.00 (reference)
<20 min/day	559	62,860	0.88 (0.77–1.00)	0.89 (0.78–1.01)	279	0.88 (0.74–1.05)	280	0.91 (0.75–1.10)
20–40 min/day	1017	103,747	0.91 (0.81–1.02)	0.91 (0.81–1.03)	564	0.86 (0.74–1.01)	453	0.99 (0.82–1.19)
40–60 min/day	679	64,923	0.99 (0.88–1.12)	0.99 (0.87–1.13)	374	0.98 (0.83–1.16)	305	1.01 (0.83–1.24)
$\geq 1$ h/day	901	80,596	1.09 (0.97–1.23)	1.08 (0.95–1.22)	438	1.02 (0.86–1.21)	463	1.16 (0.96–1.40)
<b>Leisure-time exercise</b>								
<1 h/week	475	48,792	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	280	1.00 (reference)	195	1.00 (reference)
1 h/week	562	57,124	1.01 (0.89–1.14)	1.04 (0.91–1.17)	335	1.02 (0.87–1.21)	227	1.05 (0.89–1.14)
2–3 h/week	1137	111,350	1.03 (0.92–1.14)	1.04 (0.93–1.16)	616	1.04 (0.90–1.21)	521	1.01 (0.92–1.14)
$\geq 4$ h/week	1222	117,073	1.11 (0.99–1.23)	1.06 (0.95–1.19)	554	1.12 (0.96–1.32)	668	0.99 (0.83–1.17)
<b>Sleep duration</b>								
$\leq 6.0$ h/night	988	87,964	1.00 (0.92–1.09)	0.99 (0.92–1.08)	627	0.96 (0.86–1.07)	361	1.05 (0.93–1.19)
6.1–7.0 h/night	1110	111,490	1.02 (0.94–1.10)	1.01 (0.93–1.09)	599	1.02 (0.91–1.14)	511	1.00 (0.89–1.12)
7.1–9.0 h/night	1454	149,828	1.00 (reference)	1.00 (reference)	692	1.00 (reference)	762	1.00 (reference)
>9.0 h/night	119	7796	1.56 (1.30–1.88)	1.54 (1.27–1.85)	55	1.63 (1.24–2.14)	64	1.44 (1.11–1.86)

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; DASH, Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension diet. <sup>a</sup>The number of cases and person-years may not add up to the total number owing to missing data on some of the lifestyle factors. A dummy variable for missing was included in the model. <sup>b</sup>Adjusted for age, sex, education, body mass index, and history of hypertension, hypercholesterolemia and diabetes, and mutually for the other lifestyle factors (except the Mediterranean diet score due to strong correlation with the DASH diet score) and sleep duration. <sup>c</sup>The number of cases included in the analysis of pack-years does not sum up to the number included in the analysis of smoking status owing to missing information on pack-years.

With regard to alcohol consumption, a meta-analysis of 11 prospective studies with a total of 73,330 participants and 4,586 dementia cases showed

a J-shaped relationship between alcohol consumption and risk of dementia [12]. An alcohol intake up to at most 12.5 g/day (about 1 drink/day) was associated

with a reduced risk of dementia, with the lowest risk (9% reduction in risk) observed at an intake of about 6 g/day. In our study, including nearly the same number of dementia cases as in the meta-analysis, we found no significant association between alcohol consumption and risk of dementia but we cannot rule out that we may have overlooked a weak association.

The present study did not confirm a beneficial association between physical activity and dementia risk, which was observed in a meta-analysis of observational studies, most of which included small number of cases [11]. A recent genome-wide association study found that a genetic variant (rs429358) in the apolipoprotein E gene was significantly associated with moderate-to-vigorous physical activity [36]. Genetic variants in the apolipoprotein E gene are strongly associated with risk of dementia, in particular Alzheimer's disease, and therefore we cannot exclude the possibility that the lack of association between physical activity and risk of dementia in the present study was due to confounding by apolipoprotein E genotypes. Further studies evaluating the associations of different types and intensities of physical activity with risk of dementia, adjusted for apolipoprotein E genotypes, are necessary to elucidate the role of physical activity in dementia.

Smoking has been inconsistently associated with risk of dementia in observational studies but a meta-analysis of 17 prospective studies found an overall 30% increased risk of dementia among smokers [37]. Our study confirms a modest increased risk of dementia associated with smoking.

Our overall results showing an association between long sleep duration and increased risk of dementia are consistent with findings from several previous smaller cohort studies of older adults [16, 17, 20–22]. However, sleep duration was not associated with dementia risk among 4835 older Dutch adults who were cognitively intact at baseline [23]. Furthermore, in the Framingham Heart Study long sleep duration in the past was not associated with an increased dementia risk and sleep duration at baseline was only associated with higher risk of dementia in those with mild cognitive impairment [22]. In our study, the association between long sleep duration and dementia risk did not remain after removing cases diagnosed during the first five or 10 years of follow-up, suggesting that the association was explained by a reverse causation effect. Disturbed sleep is often seen in dementia and may involve damage to hypothalamic and brainstem nuclei that control sleep-wake

cycles and perturbations in neurotransmitter signaling (e.g., serotonin, norepinephrine, and melatonin) [25]. Collectively, there is evidence that transitioning to being a long sleeper is an early marker of neurodegeneration.

Important strengths of this study include the large sample size, the prospective design, the long follow-up, and the objective ascertainment of dementia through linkage with population-based registers. The large sample size and long follow-up and thus, the large number of cases provided high statistical power to detect weak associations such as the association between smoking and dementia risk.

A shortcoming of this study is that we did not have information on the apolipoprotein E  $\epsilon 4$  genotype. Another limitation is that some degree of underascertainment of dementia cases was inevitable since data on dementia were retrieved from the National Patient Register. A further limitation is that the lifestyle factors and sleep were self-reported on a questionnaire. Thus, some measurement error in the exposures may have occurred. Nevertheless, in previous studies based on this cohort and the same questionnaire, we have observed associations of healthy dietary patterns, alcohol and coffee consumption, smoking, and physical activity with risk of cardiovascular disease (e.g., [26, 28, 38–44]) and mortality [33], indicating that the questionnaire have adequate validity to capture true associations. Finally, this study could not address whether adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyle behaviors in early adulthood and midlife reduces the risk of developing dementia in late-life.

In conclusion, while adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyle behavior throughout life is important in the prevention of several chronic diseases and premature death, this study found no evidence that major lifestyle factors, aside from smoking, or sleep duration in late life are associated with risk of developing late-onset dementia. The role of specific dietary factors (foods, nutrients, and other bioactive compounds) and other potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia merits study in future studies.

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