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63 **Executive summary**

- The number of older people, including those living with dementia, is rising, as younger-age mortality
 declines. However, the age-specific incidence of dementia has fallen in many countries, probably
- 66 due to improvements in education, nutrition, health-care, and lifestyle changes. Overall, there is
- 67 growing evidence for the nine potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia that the Lancet 2017
- 68 commission modelled previously; education, hypertension, hearing impairment, smoking, obesity,
- 69 depression, exercise, diabetes and social contact. We now add three more risk factors for dementia
- 70 with more recent, convincing evidence. These are higher alcohol consumption, traumatic brain injury
- 71 and air pollution. We have completed new reviews and meta-analyses and incorporated these into
- 72 an updated 12 risk factor life-course model of dementia prevention. Together they account for
- around 40% of worldwide dementias, which theoretically could be prevented or delayed by
- reliminating these risk factors. The potential for prevention is high and may be higher in low and
- 75 middle-income countries (LMIC) where more dementias currently occur.
- 76 Our new life course model and evidence synthesis has important worldwide policy implications. It is
- never too early and never too late in the life course for dementia prevention. Early-life risks, such as
- 78 less education affect cognitive reserve; midlife and old age risk factors influence reserve and
- 79 triggering of neuropathological developments. Culture, poverty and inequality are important
- 80 obstacles to, or drivers of, the need for change. Those who are most deprived need the changes
- 81 most and will derive the highest benefit.
- 82 Policy should prioritise childhood education for all. Public health initiatives minimising head injury
- 83 and decreasing harmful alcohol drinking could potentially reduce young-onset and late-life
- 84 dementia. Mid-life systolic blood pressure control should aim for ≤130mmHg to delay or prevent
- 85 dementia. Stopping smoking, even in later life ameliorates this risk. Passive smoking is a less-
- 86 considered modifiable risk factor for dementia. Many countries have restricted this exposure. Policy
- 87 makers should expedite improvements in air quality, particularly in areas with high air pollution.
- 88 We recommend keeping cognitively, physically and socially active in mid- and late-life but there is
- 89 little evidence for any single specific activity being protective against dementia. Using hearing aids
- 90 appears to reduce the excess risk from hearing loss. Sustained mid-life, and possibly late-life,
- 91 exercise protects from dementia, perhaps through decreasing obesity, diabetes and cardio-vascular
- risk. Depression may be a risk for dementia, but in later life dementia may cause depression.
- 93 Although behaviour change is difficult and some associations may not be purely causal, there
- 94 remains huge potential for individuals to reduce their dementia risk.
- 95 In LMIC, not everyone has access to secondary education; there are high rates of hypertension,
- 96 obesity and hearing loss and the prevalence of diabetes is growing rapidly, so an even greater
- 97 proportion of dementias are potentially preventable.
- 98 Amyloid beta and tau biomarkers indicate risk of progression to Alzheimer's dementia but most
- 99 people with normal cognition and these biomarkers never develop AD. While accurate diagnosis is
- 100 important for patients and families who have impairments and functional concerns, there is a lack of
- 101 evidence to support pre-symptomatic diagnosis in everyday practice.
- 102 Our understanding of dementia aetiology is shifting, with recent description of new pathological
- 103 causes. In the oldest old, in particular, mixed dementia is more common. Blood biomarkers may

hold promise for future diagnostic approaches and are more scalable than CSF and brain imagingmarkers.

- 106 Wellbeing is the goal of much dementia care. People with dementia have complex problems and
- 107 symptoms in many domains. Interventions should be individualised and consider the person as a
- 108 whole, as well as their family carers. Evidence is accumulating for the effectiveness, at least in the
- short-term, of psychosocial interventions tailored to the patient's needs to manage neuropsychiatric
- symptoms. Evidence based interventions for carers can reduce depressive and anxiety symptoms
- 111 over years, be cost-effective and may save money.
- 112 Keeping people with dementia physically healthy is important for their cognition. People with
- dementia have more physical health problems than others of the same age but often receive less
- 114 community health care, and find it particularly difficult to access and organise care. People with
- dementia have more hospital admissions than other older people, including for illnesses that are
- 116 potentially manageable at home. Such hospitalisations are distressing and are associated with poor
- outcomes and high costs. Health-care professionals should consider dementia in older people
 without known dementia who have frequent admissions or who develop delirium. Delirium is
- 119 common in people with dementia and contributes to cognitive decline. In hospital, care including
- 120 appropriate sensory stimulation, ensuring fluid intake, and avoiding infections may reduce delirium
- 121 incidence.

Acting now on dementia prevention, intervention, and care will vastly improve living and dying forindividuals with dementia and their families, and thus society.

124 Key messages

- There is updated evidence for adding three modifiable risk factors excessive alcohol
 consumption, head injury and air pollution to our original Lancet Commission life course
 model of nine factors (less education, hypertension, hearing impairment, smoking, obesity,
 depression, physical inactivity, diabetes, and infrequent social contact).
- 129 2. These 12 risk factors may prevent or delay up to 40% of dementias if modified.
- Be ambitious about prevention. Prevention is about policy and individuals. Contributions to
 the risk and mitigation of dementia begin early and continue throughout life, so it is never too
 early or too late. These require both public health programmes and individually tailored
 interventions. In addition to population strategies, policy should address high-risk groups to
 increase social, cognitive and physical activity; and vascular health.
- 135 4. Specific actions for risk factors from across the lifecourse are:
- 136
- i. Aim to maintain systolic BP ≤130 mmHg in midlife from around age 40 years
 (antihypertensive treatment for hypertension is the only known effective preventive
 medication for dementia).
- 140 ii. Encourage use of hearing aids for hearing loss and reduce hearing loss by protection141 of ears from high noise levels.
- 142 iii. Reduce exposure to air pollution and second hand tobacco smoke.
- 143 iv. Prevent head injury
- 144v.Limit alcohol use, as alcohol misuse and drinking >21 units (14 drinks) weekly145increase the risk of dementia

146		vi.	Avoid smoking uptake and support smoking cessation to stop smoking, as this	
147			reduces the risk of dementia even in late-life	
148		vii.	Provide all children with primary and secondary education.	
149		viii.	Reduce obesity and the linked condition of diabetes and thus decrease dementia.	
150		ix.	Sustained mid-life, and possibly late-life physical activity is associated with reduction	
151			in the risk of dementia	Page 5
152		х.	Addressing other putative risk factors for dementia, like sleep, through lifestyle	
153			interventions, will improve general health.	
154	5.	Clearly m	any risk factors cluster around inequalities and in vulnerable populations. Thus	
155		tackling t	hem will not involve only health promotion but societal action to improve the	
156		circumsta	ances in which people live their lives. Examples include creating environments that	
157		have phy	sical activity as a norm, reduce the population profile of blood pressure rise with age	
158		through b	petter patterns of nutrition, and in which there is reduced potential exposure to	
159		excessive	alcohol. Dementia is rising more in LMIC than in high-income countries, because of	
160		populatic	on ageing and higher frequency of potentially modifiable risk factor s . Preventative	
161		intervent	ions may yield the largest dementia reductions in LMIC.	
162		For those	e with dementia recommendations are:	
163	6.	Most peo	pple with dementia have other illnesses too and may struggle to look after their	
164		health an	d this may result in potentially preventable hospitalizations. Post-diagnostic care for	
165		people w	ith dementia should address physical and mental health, social care and support.	
166	7.	Specific n	nulticomponent interventions decrease neuropsychiatric symptoms in people with	
167		dementia	a and are the treatments of choice. Psychotropic drugs are often ineffective and may	
168		have seve	ere adverse effects.	
169	8.	Specific in	nterventions with family carers have long lasting effects on depression and anxiety	
170		symptom	is, increase quality of life, are cost-effective and may save money.	
171				

172 Introduction

- 173 Worldwide around 50 million people live with dementia, and this is projected to increase to 131
- 174 million by 2050,¹ rising particularly in low and middle-income countries (LMIC) where around two-
- thirds of people with dementia live.¹ Dementia affects individuals, their families and the economy,
- 176 with global costs estimated to exceed US\$800 billion annually.¹

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- We re-convened the Lancet Commission² to identify the advances likely to have the greatest impact
 since our 2017 paper and build on its work. Our interdisciplinary, international group of experts
 presented, debated and agreed on the best available evidence. We adopted a triangulation
 framework evaluating the consistency of evidence from different lines of research and used that as
- 181 the basis to evaluate evidence. We have summarised best evidence using, where possible, good
- quality systematic reviews, meta-analyses or individual studies, where these add important
 knowledge to this field. We performed systematic literature reviews and meta-analyses where
- needed to generate new evidence for our analysis of potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia.
- 185 Within this framework, we present a narrative synthesis of evidence including systematic reviews
- and meta-analyses and explain its balance, strengths and limitations. There is updated evidence
- about dementia risk in LMIC; risks and protective factors for dementia; detection of Alzheimer's
- dementia (AD); multimorbidity in dementia and interventions for people affected by dementia.
- 189 Nearly all the evidence is from studies in high-income countries (HIC), so risks may differ for other
- 190 countries and interventions may require modification for different cultures and environments. This
- 191 also underpins the critical need to understand the dementias related to life course disadvantage –
- 192 whether in HICs or LMICs.
- 193 Our understanding of dementia aetiology is shifting. A consensus group, for example, has described
- 194 hippocampal sclerosis associated with TDP-43 proteinopathy, as limbic-predominant age-related
- 195 TDP-43 encephalopathy (LATE) dementia, usually found in people aged over 80, progressing more
- 196 slowly than AD, detectable at post-mortem, often mimicking or comorbid with AD.³ This reflects
- 197 increasing attention to how clinical syndromes are and are not related to particular underlying
- 198 pathologies and how this might change across age. More work is needed, however, before LATE can
- 199 be used as a valid clinical diagnosis.
- 200 The fastest growing demographic group in HIC is the oldest old, those aged over 90. This represents
- 201 a unique scientific opportunity to focus on both human biology, in this previously rare population, as
- 202 well as on meeting their unique needs and promoting their well-being.

203 Prevention of dementia

- 204 The number of people with dementia is rising. Predictions about future trends in dementia
- 205 prevalence vary depending on the underlying assumptions and geographical region, but generally
- 206 suggest substantial increases in overall prevalence related to population ageing. For example,
- 207 according to the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study, the global age-
- standardised prevalence of dementia between 1990 and 2016 was relatively stable, but with an
- ageing and bigger population the number of people with dementia has more than doubled since
 1990.⁴
- However, in many countries such as the US, UK and France, age-specific incidence rates are lower in recent compared to earlier cohorts collected using similar methods and target populations ⁵ (Figure

- 1) and there appears to be a decrease in age specific incidence of dementia. In, for example,
- 214 England, public health models from UK population based studies suggest a declining trend in age-
- 215 specific dementia incidence. ⁶ All-cause dementia incidence is lower in people born more recently,⁷
- 216 probably due to educational, socio-economic, health care and lifestyle changes.^{2,5} However, in
- 217 these countries increasing obesity, diabetes and declining physical activity may reverse this
- 218 trajectory.^{8,9} In contrast, age-specific dementia prevalence in Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and
- 219 Taiwan looks as if it is increasing, as is AD in non-Western countries, although it is unclear
- 220 whether diagnostic methods are always the same in comparison studies. ^{5,7 6}
- 221 Modelling the UK change, suggests a 57% increase in the numbers of people with dementia from
- 222 2016 to 2040, 70% of that expected if age-specific incidence rates remained steady, ¹⁰ such that by
- 223 2040 there will be 1.2 million UK people with dementia. Models also suggest that there will be future
- increases both in the number of individuals who are independent and those with complex care
- 225 needs.⁶
- 226 In our first report, this commission described a life-course model for potentially modifiable risks for
- 227 dementia.² Life-course is important when considering risk, for example, obesity and hypertension in
- 228 mid-life predict future dementia, but both body weight and blood pressure usually fall in late-life in
- those with or developing dementia,⁹ so late-life lower weight and blood pressure may signify illness
- not an absence of risk.¹¹⁻¹⁴ We consider evidence about other potential risk factors and incorporate
- 231 those with good quality evidence in our model.

232

Cohort	Population	٠	lazard ratio/incidence ratio (95% Cl)
Rotterdam (age 60-90 years)			
2000 vs 1990	Total	←	0.8 (0.6, 1.0)
2000 vs 1990	Men		0.7 (0.4, 1.2)
2000 vs 1990	Women	•	0.8 (0.5, 1.1)
Bordeaux			
(clinical diagnosis, age ≥65 years			
1999 vs 1988	Total		0.9 (0.7, 1.1)
1999 vs 1988	Men		1.2 (0.8, 1.9)
1999 vs 1988	Women –	•	0.9 (0.7, 1.2)
Bordeaux			
(algorithmic diagnosis, age ≥65 y	ears)		
1999 vs 1988	Total	-	0.6 (0.5, 0.8)
1999 vs 1988	Men —	•	1.1 (0.7, 1.8)
1999 vs 1988	Women	-	0.6 (0.5, 0.8)
CFAS (age ≥65 years)			
2008 vs 1991	Total —	•	0.8 (0.6, 1.0)
2008 vs 1991	Men		0.6 (0.4, 0.9)
2008 vs 1991	Women -		1.0 (0.7, 1.3)
IIDP			
(African American age ≥70 years)		
2001 vs 1992	Total —		0.4 (0.3, 0.5)
IIDP (Yoruba age ≥70 years)			
2001 vs 1992	Total —	•	0.8 (0.6, 1.1)
Framingham Heart Study			
(age ≥60 years)			
1986-1991 vs 1977-1983	Total	←	0.8 (0.6, 1.0)
1992–1998 vs 1977–1983	Total	_	0.6 (0.5, 0.8)
2004–2008 vs 1977–1983	Total		0.6 (0.4, 0.8)
1986-1991 vs 1977-1983	Men		1.0 (0.6, 1.6)
1992-1998 vs 1977-1983	Men		0.9 (0.6, 1.4)
2004-2008 vs 1977-1983	Men		0.6 (0.4, 1.1)
1986-1991 vs 1977-1983	Women		0.7 (0.5, 1.0)
1992-1998 vs 1977-1983	Women		0.5 (0.4, 0.7)
2004-2008 vs 1977-1983	Women	-	0.5 (0.4, 0.8)
	0.25 0.5		10

233 with permission Figure 1: Incidence rate ratio comparing new cohorts to old cohorts from

234 **five studies of dementia incidence** ⁵ Age-specific dementia prevalence is increasing in some

other countries. IIDP (Indianapolis–Ibadan Dementia Project) in USA and Nigeria; Bordeaux study

236 France; and Rotterdam, Netherlands study adjusted for age. Framingham Heart Study, USA adjusted

for age and sex. CFAS = Cognitive Function and Ageing Study UK; adjusted for age, sex, area and

238 deprivation.

239 Figure 2 summarises possible mechanisms of protection from dementia. These involve cognitive 240 reserve, which allow for cognition maintenance despite pathology and neuropathological damage. There are different terms describing the observed differential susceptibility to age- and disease-241 related changes and these are not used consistently.^{15,16} A recent consensus paper defines "reserve" 242 as a concept accounting for the difference between an individual's clinical picture and their 243 244 neuropathology. It divides it into neurobiological brain reserve (for example, numbers of neurones 245 and synapses at a given time point), brain maintenance (as neurobiological capital at any time point, 246 based on genetics or lifestyle reducing brain changes and pathology development over time) and 247 cognitive reserve (CR) as adaptability enabling preservation of cognition or everyday functioning in spite of brain pathology.¹⁵ CR is changeable and quantifying it uses proxy measures such as 248 249 education, occupational complexity, leisure activity, residual approaches (the variance of cognition 250 not explained by demographic variables and brain measures) or identification of functional networks 251 that may underlie such reserve.¹⁵

- 252 Early-life factors, such as less education, affect the resulting cognitive reserve, midlife and old-age
- 253 risk factors influence age-related cognitive decline and triggering of neuropathological
- developments. Consistent with the hypothesis of cognitive reserve is that older women are more
- likely to develop dementia than men of the same age, probably partly because they have on average
- 256 had less education than have older men. Cognitive reserve mechanisms may include preserved
- 257 metabolism or increased connectivity in temporal and frontal brain areas. ¹⁷⁻²¹ People otherwise in
- 258 good physical health can sustain a higher burden of neuropathology without cognitive impairment.
- ²² Culture, poverty and inequality are important obstacles to and drivers of the need for change.
- 260 Those who are most deprived need the changes most and will derive the highest benefit.
- 261 Exercise increases and smoking decreases HDL–cholesterol and docosahexaenoic acid blood levels
- 262 (DHA) which in one study were associated with reduced dementia and AD risk independently of
- 263 cardiovascular health and the allele APOEε4. ²³ Smoking increases air particulate matter, and has
- vascular and toxic effects.²³ Similarly air pollution may act via vascular mechanisms.²⁴ Exercise may
- reduce weight and diabetes risk, improve cardiovascular function, decrease glutamine or enhance
- 266 hippocampal neurogenesis. ²⁵ Higher HDL-cholesterol may protect against vascular risk and
- 267 inflammation accompanying amyloid-beta (Aβ) pathology in Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI). ²⁶





269

- 270 Figure 2. Possible brain mechanisms for enhancing or maintaining cognitive reserve and risk
- 271 reduction of potentially modifiable risk factors in dementia

272 Dementia in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC)

- 273 Numbers of people with dementia in LMIC are rising faster than in higher income countries because
- of increases in life expectancy and greater risk factor burden. We previously calculated that nine
- potentially modifiable risk factors together are associated with 35% of the population attributable
- 276 fraction (PAFs) of dementia worldwide: less education, high blood pressure, obesity, hearing loss,
- 277 depression, diabetes, physical inactivity, smoking and social isolation assuming causation.² Most
- 278 research data for this calculation came from high-income countries and review evidence shows
- there is a relative lack of specific evidence of the impact of risk factors on dementia risk in LMIC,
- 280 particularly from Africa and Latin America²⁷.

- 281 Calculations taking into account country-specific prevalence of the nine potentially modifiable risk factors indicates population attributable fractions of 40% in China, 41% in India and 56% in Latin 282 America with the potential for these numbers to be even higher depending on which estimates of 283 risk factor frequency are used.^{28 29} There is therefore higher potential for dementia prevention in 284 these countries than in global estimates which use data which is predominantly from higher income 285 286 countries. National policies on access to education, addressing causes and management of high blood pressure, causes and treatment of hearing loss, socioeconomic and commercial drivers of 287 288 obesity including influences on physical inactivity may be risk reduction strategies in many countries 289 if not currently in place. The higher social contact observed in these three LMIC regions provide 290 potential insights for higher income countries to influence this risk factor for dementia.³⁰. We have 291 not been able to take into account other risk factors such as poor health in pregnancy of 292 malnourished mothers, difficult births, early life malnutrition, survival with heavy infection burdens 293 alongside malaria and HIV, all of which may add to the risks in LMIC.
- 294 Diabetes is also very common and cigarette smoking is rising in China while falling in most high-
- 295 income countries. ³¹ A meta-analysis found variation of the rates of dementia within China, with a
- higher prevalence in the north and lower in central China, estimating there was 9.5 million people
- with dementia, whereas a slightly later synthesis estimated a higher prevalence of around 11 million.
- ^{30,32} These data highlight the need for more focused work in LMIC for more accurate estimates of risk
- and interventions tailored to each setting.

300 Specific potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia

- 301 Risk factors in early life (education), midlife (hypertension, obesity, hearing loss, traumatic brain
- 302 injury, alcohol misuse) and later life (smoking, depression, physical inactivity, social isolation,
- diabetes, air pollution) can contribute to increased dementia risk (table 1). There is good evidence
- for all these risk factors although there is the possibility that some late-life factors, such as
- depression, have bidirectional impact and are also part of the dementia prodrome ^{33 34}
- 306 In the following section, we briefly describe relevant newly published and illustrative research
- 307 studies that add to the Commission's evidence base, including risks and, for some, mitigation. We
- 308 have chosen studies that are large and representative of the populations, or smaller studies in areas
- 309 where there is very little evidence. We discussed them in lifecourse order and within the lifecourse
- 310 in the order of strength of population attributable factor.

311 Education, midlife and late-life cognitive stimulation

312 Education level reached

- 313 Higher childhood education levels and lifelong higher educational attainment reduce dementia risk.
- 314 ^{2,35,36 37} New work suggests overall cognitive ability increases, with education, before reaching a
- 315 plateau in late adolescence, when there is greatest brain plasticity; with relatively few further gains
- 316 with education after age 20.³⁸ This suggests cognitive stimulation is more important in early life;
- 317 much of the apparent later effect may be due to people of higher cognitive function seeking out
- 318 cognitively stimulating activities and education.³⁸ It is difficult to separate activities from earlier
- 319 achievements, ^{38,39} and late-life cognitive activity associated with lifelong cognitive function. ^{39,40}

320 *Cognitive maintenance*

- 321 One large study in China tried to separate cognitive activity in adulthood from activities for those
- 322 with more education and by considering activities judged to appeal to people of different levels of
- 323 education. ⁴⁰ It found people aged >65 who read, played games or bet more frequently had reduced
- risk of dementia (n=15,882, odds ratio (OR) = 0.7; 95% confidence intervals [CI] 0.6-0.8). The study
- 325 excluded people developing dementia less than three years after baseline to reduce reverse
- 326 causation.
- 327 This is consistent with small studies of mid-life activities which find they are associated with better
- 328 late-life cognition; so for example, in 205 people aged 30-64 years, followed until 66-88 years, travel,
- social outings, playing music, art, physical activity, reading, and speaking a second language, were
- associated with maintaining cognition, independent of education, occupation, late-life activities and
- 331 current structural brain health. ⁴¹ Similarly, engaging in intellectual activity as adults, particularly
- problem solving, for 498 people born in 1936, was associated with cognitive ability acquisition,
- although not the speed of decline. ⁴²

334 *Cognitive decline*

- 335 The 'use it or lose it' hypothesis suggests that mental activity, in general, may increase cognitive
- activity. People in more cognitively demanding jobs tend to show less cognitive deterioration before,
- and sometimes after retirement than those in less demanding jobs. ^{43,44} One systematic review of
- retirement and cognitive decline found conflicting evidence. ⁴⁵ Subsequently, a 12-year study of
- 1658 people found older retirement age but not number of years working, was associated with
- 340 lower dementia risk.⁴⁶ Those retiring because of ill health had lower verbal memory and fluency
- 341 scores than those retiring for other reasons. ⁴⁷ Another study found a two-fold increase in episodic
- 342 memory loss attributable to retirement (n=18,575, mean age 66), compared to non-retirees,
- adjusting for health, age, sex and wealth.⁴⁸ Similarly, in a cohort of 3433 people retiring at mean age
- 61 years, verbal memory declined 38% (95% CI 22-60) faster than before retirement. ⁴⁴ In countries
- 345 with younger compared to higher retirement ages, average cognitive performance drops more.⁴⁹

346 Cognitive interventions in normal cognition and Mild Cognitive Impairment

- 347 A cognitive intervention or cognition-orientated treatment comprises strategies or skills to improve
- 348 general or specific areas of cognition.⁵⁰ Computerised cognitive training (CCT) programmes have
- 349 increasingly replaced tasks that were originally paper-and-pencil format with computer-based tasks
- 350 for practice and training. ⁵¹
- 351 Three systematic reviews in the general population found no evidence of generalised cognition
- improvement from specific cognitive interventions, including computerised cognitive training (CCT),
 although the domain trained may improve. ⁵²⁻⁵⁴
- A meta-analysis of 17 controlled trials of at least 4 hours of CCT (N=351; control N=335) for Mild
- 355 Cognitive Impairment (MCI), found a moderate effect post-training on general cognition (Hedges'
- g=0.4; 0.2-0.5) ⁵⁵ but there were few high quality studies and there is currently no long-term high
- 357 quality evidence about prevention of dementia. A meta-analysis of 30 trials of computerised,
- 358 therapy-based and multimodal interventions for MCI found an effect on activities of daily living
- (ADL) (d= 0.23) and metacognitive outcomes (d = 0.30) compared to control. ⁵⁶ A third systematic
- 360 review identified five high quality studies, four group delivered and one by computer, and concluded
- 361 the evidence for the effects of cognitive training in MCI was insufficient to draw conclusions. ⁵³ A

- 362 comprehensive, high quality, systematic overview of meta-analyses of cognitive training in healthy
- 363 older people and those with MCI, found that most were of low standard, all were positive and
- 364 reached statistical significance but it was unclear whether results were of clinical value because of
- the poor standard of the studies and heterogeneity of results (see figure 3).⁵¹
- 366 In the only RCT of behavioural activation (221 people) for cognition in amnestic MCI (aMCI),
- 367 behavioural activation vs supportive therapy was associated with a decreased 2-year incidence of
- 368 memory decline (relative risk (RR) 0.12; 0.02-0.74). ⁵⁷

Healthy OA Papp 2009 Metternich 2010 Martin 2011 Gross 2012 Image: Construction of the second	Population	Study	Objective cognitive outcomes	Hedge's g (95% CI)	k		AMSTAR
Metternich 2010 Martin 2011 0.48 (0.23 to 0.73) 4-5 6 Critically low Martin 2011 Martin 2011 0.48 (0.23 to 0.73) 4-5 6 Critically low Gross 2012 Hindin 2012 Hert 0.31 (0.22 to 0.39) 35 6.5 Critically low Karr 2014 Hert 0.33 (0.13 to 0.52) 25 3.5 Critically low Kelly 2014 Hert 0.22 (0.15 to 0.29) 51 12.5 Moderate Toril 2014 Hert 0.32 (0.19 to 0.45) 20* 6 Critically low Shao 2015 Melby-Lervàg 2016 Hert 0.32 (0.19 to 0.45) 20* 6 Critically low Weicker 2016 Hert 0.32 (0.19 to 0.45) 20* 6 Critically low Weicker 2016 Hert 0.32 (0.19 to 0.45) 20* 6 Critically low Weicker 2016 Hert 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 8 8.5 Critically low Weicker 2016 Hert 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 8 5 Critically low Methorn 2017 Hert O.31 (0.24 to 0.39) 48 9	Healthy OA	Papp 2009		0.16 (0.14 to 0.19)	10	3.5	Critically low
Martin 2011		Metternich 2010		0.48 (0.23 to 0.73)	4-5	6	Critically low
Gross 2012 H=H 0.31 (0.22 to 0.39) 35 6.5 Critically low Hindin 2012 H=H 0.33 (0.13 to 0.52) 25 3.5 Critically low Karr 2014 H=H 0.26 (0.10 to 0.42) 15 8.5 Critically low Kelly 2014 H=H 0.32 (0.15 to 0.29) 51 12.5 Moderate Toril 2014 H=H 0.32 (0.19 to 0.45) 20* 6 Critically low Shao 2015 H=H 0.31 (0.05 to 0.57) 6-10 6 Critically low Wang 2016 H=H 0.38 (0.12 to 0.64) 8 8.5 Critically low Weicker 2016 H=H 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 6-22 7 Low Mewborn 2017 H=H 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 6-22 7 Low Mewborn 2017 H=H 0.31 (0.24 to 0.39) 48 9 Moderate Smart 2017 H=H 0.31 (0.24 to 0.39) 48 7.5 Critically low		Martin 2011	F	0.47 (-0.44 to 1.38)	2-11	6	Critically low
Hindin 2012 Image: Constraint of the second sec		Gross 2012	H B H	0.31 (0.22 to 0.39)	35	6.5	Critically low
Karr 2014 Image: Constraint of the second secon		Hindin 2012	⊢ ∎−-1	0.33 (0.13 to 0.52)	25	3.5	Critically low
Kelly 2014 0.38 (0.05 to 0.72) 2-7 9 Critically low Lampit 2014 H=H 0.22 (0.15 to 0.29) 51 12.5 Moderate Toril 2014 H=H 0.32 (0.19 to 0.45) 20* 6 Critically low Shao 2015 Melby-Lervåg 2016 0.31 (0.05 to 0.57) 6-10 6 Critically low Wang 2016 Meithy-Lervåg 2016 0.38 (0.12 to 0.64) 8 8.5 Critically low Weicker 2016 Mewborn 2017 H=H 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 6-22 7 Low Mewborn 2017 H=H 0.37 (0.05 to 0.69) 8 7.5 Critically low		Karr 2014	⊢ ∎−-1	0.26 (0.10 to 0.42)	15	8.5	Critically low
Lampit 2014 Hert 0.22 (0.15 to 0.29) 51 12.5 Moderate Toril 2014 Hert 0.32 (0.19 to 0.45) 20* 6 Critically low Shao 2015 Melby-Lervåg 2016 0.31 (0.05 to 0.57) 6-10 6 Critically low Wang 2016 Meicker 2016 0.38 (0.12 to 0.64) 8 8.5 Critically low Weicker 2016 Mewborn 2017 Hert 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 6-22 7 Low Mewborn 2017 Hert 0.37 (0.05 to 0.59) 48 9 Moderate Smart 2017 O.37 (0.05 to 0.69) 8 7.5 Critically low		Kelly 2014		0.38 (0.05 to 0.72)	2-7	9	Critically low
Toril 2014 Image: Constraint of the second seco		Lampit 2014	HEH	0.22 (0.15 to 0.29)	51	12.5	Moderate
Shao 2015 0.31 (0.05 to 0.57) 6-10 6 Critically low Melby-Lervåg 2016 0.31 (0.05 to 0.57) 6-10 6 Critically low Wang 2016 0.38 (0.12 to 0.64) 8 8.5 Critically low Weicker 2016 0.38 (0.14 to 0.62) 10-20 6.5 Critically low Chiu 2017 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 6-22 7 Low Mewborn 2017 H=1 0.37 (0.05 to 0.69) 8 7.5 Critically low		Toril 2014	⊢ ∎→1	0.32 (0.19 to 0.45)	20*	6	Critically low
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Wang 2016 Image: Constraint of the second secon		Melby-Lervåg 2016	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	0.13 (-0.02 to 0.28)	17	1	Critically low
Weicker 2016 Image: Chiu 2017 0.38 (0.14 to 0.62) 10-20 6.5 Critically low Chiu 2017 Image: Chiu 2017 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 6-22 7 Low Mewborn 2017 Image: Chiu 2017 0.31 (0.24 to 0.39) 48 9 Moderate Smart 2017 Image: Chiu 2017 Image: Chiu 2017 0.37 (0.05 to 0.69) 8 7.5 Critically low		Wang 2016		0.38 (0.12 to 0.64)	8	8.5	Critically low
Chiu 2017 Image: Chiu 2017 0.32 (0.16 to 0.48) 6-22 7 Low Mewborn 2017 Image: Chiu 2017 0.31 (0.24 to 0.39) 48 9 Moderate Smart 2017 Image: Chiu 2017 0.37 (0.05 to 0.69) 8 7.5 Critically low		Weicker 2016		0.38 (0.14 to 0.62)	10-20	6.5	Critically low
Mewborn 2017 Image: Constraint 2017 Image: Constraint 2017 0.31 (0.24 to 0.39) 48 9 Moderate Smart 2017 Image: Constraint 2017 Imag		Chiu 2017	⊢ ∎−1	0.32 (0.16 to 0.48)	6-22	7	Low
Smart 2017 0.37 (0.05 to 0.69) 8 7.5 Critically low		Mewborn 2017	HEH	0.31 (0.24 to 0.39)	48	9	Moderate
		Smart 2017		0.37 (0.05 to 0.69)	8	7.5	Critically low
Tetow 2017 0.16 (-0.11 to 0.43) 3-14 4 Critically low		Tetlow 2017		0.16 (-0.11 to 0.43)	3-14	4	Critically low
Bhome 2018 0.13 (0.01 to 0.25) 10 8 Low		Bhome 2018	j-a-i	0.13 (0.01 to 0.25)	10	8	Low
Gates 2019a = 0.64 (-0.56 to 1.85) 2-4 12.5 Low		Gates 2019a		0.64 (-0.56 to 1.85)	2-4	12.5	Low
MCI Sherman 2017 0.45 (0.16 to 0.75) 26 8 Low	MCI	Sherman 2017	⊢ → → →	0.45 (0.16 to 0.75)	26	8	Low
Martin 2011 0.60 (0.00 to 1.19) 2-3 6 Critically low		Martin 2011		0.60 (0.00 to 1.19)	2-3	6	Critically low
Wang 2014 0.32 (-0.04 to 0.69) 3-6 8 Critically low		Wang 2014	<u>i</u> ■ 1	0.32 (-0.04 to 0.69)	3-6	8	Critically low
Hill 2017 0.35 (0.20 to 0.50) 17 12 Moderate		Hill 2017	⊢ ∎1	0.35 (0.20 to 0.50)	17	12	Moderate
Mewborn 2017 0.34 (0.21 to 0.47) 12 9 Moderate		Mewborn 2017	⊢ ∎-1	0.34 (0.21 to 0.47)	12	9	Moderate
Gates 2019b 0.41 (-0.22 to 1.04) 2-5 12.5 Low		Gates 2019b		0.41 (-0.22 to 1.04)	2-5	12.5	Low
Dementia Huntley 2015 0.28 (-0.12 to 0.68) 3 11.5 Moderate	Dementia	Huntley 2015	⊢	0.28 (-0.12 to 0.68)	3	11.5	Moderate
Kurz 2011 Image: Market and the second		Kurz 2011	⊢ ▲→I	0.26 (0.08 to 0.43)	5-12	6	Critically low
Woods 2012 • • • • • 0.41 (0.25 to 0.57) 14 10.5 Moderate		Woods 2012	⊨ ⊢ <u>▲</u> ⊣	0.41 (0.25 to 0.57)	14	10.5	Moderate
Huntley 2015 0.35 (0.11 to 0.58) 2-17 11.5 Moderate		Huntley 2015		0.35 (0.11 to 0.58)	2-17	11.5	Moderate
Folkerts 2017 0.35 (0.05 to 0.65) 2-3 10.5 Low		Folkerts 2017	i ⊢ I	0.35 (0.05 to 0.65)	2-3	10.5	Low
Kim 2017 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		Kim 2017	⊨ ⊢ ▲⊣	0.44 (0.28 to 0.60)	11	7	Critically low
Alves 2013 0.09 (-0.36 to 0.54) 2-3 12 Low		Alves 2013		0.09 (-0.36 to 0.54)	2-3	12	Low
Karr 2014 0.20 (-0.07 to 0.47) 10 8.5 Critically low		Karr 2014	++	0.20 (-0.07 to 0.47)	10	8.5	Critically low
Huntley 2015 0.22 (-0.74 to 1.18) 3 11.5 Moderate		Huntley 2015		0.22 (-0.74 to 1.18)	3	11.5	Moderate
Song 2016 0.33 (0.14 to 0.53) 3-6 2.5 Critically low		Song 2016		0.33 (0.14 to 0.53)	3-6	2.5	Critically low
Folkerts 2017 1.16 (0.53 to 1.79) 2 10.5 Low		Folkerts 2017	. ⊢	1.16 (0.53 to 1.79)	2	10.5	Low
Hill 2017 0.26 (0.01 to 0.51) 11 12 Moderate		Hill 2017		0.26 (0.01 to 0.51)	11	12	Moderate
Bahar-Fuchs 2019 0.42 (0.23 to 0.61) 26 14 Moderate		Bahar-Fuchs 2019	. ⊢≣ 4	0.42 (0.23 to 0.61)	26	14	Moderate
PD Leung 2015 0.23 (0.02 to 0.44) / 10 Moderate	PD	Leung 2015		0.23 (0.02 to 0.44)	7	10	Moderate
Lawrence 2017 0.31 (0.02 to 0.60) 4-10 7.5 Critically low	Otralia	Lawrence 2017		0.31 (0.02 to 0.60)	4-10	7.5	Critically low
Stroke Rogers 2018 0.48 (0.36 to 0.60) 22 13 Woderate	Stroke	Rogers 2018	_ ⊢● -1	0.48 (0.36 to 0.60)	22	13	Moderate
Loetscher 2013 0.28 (-0.10 to 0.66) 4-6 13 Low		Loetscher 2013		0.28 (-0.10 to 0.66)	4-6	13	Low
Virk 2015 0.18 (-0.24 to 0.60) 2-6 12 Moderate		Virk 2015		0.18 (-0.24 to 0.60)	2-6	12	Moderate
Ocas Ivair 2016 Image: Constraint 2016	Mixed	das Nair 2016		0.23 (-0.23 to 0.69)	5	12	LOW
Wixed Yang 2018 Image: Control of the second secon	wixed	Yang 2018		0.36 (0.10 to 0.62)	3-18	6	Low
Kurz 2011 -0.01 (-0.64 to 0.62) 5 6 Critically low		Kurz 2011		-0.01 (-0.64 to 0.62)	5	6	Critically low
Hoerier 2016 -0.06 to 0.36) 5-8 2.5 Critically low		Hoetler 2016		0.15 (-0.06 to 0.36)	5-8	2.5	Critically low
-0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5		-(0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.	.5			

Cognitive training

Page | 12

- Cognitive stimulation
- Mixed COTs

369

- 370 AMSTAR= A MeaSurement Tool to Assess systematic Reviews (max score 16) Figure 3 Pooled
- 371 results of meta-analyses investigating objective cognitive outcomes of cognition-oriented
- 372 treatment in older adults. With permission ⁵¹

373 Hearing impairment

374

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375 Hearing loss had the highest PAF for dementia in our first report, using a meta-analysis of studies of people with normal baseline cognition and hearing loss present at a threshold of 25 dB, which is the 376 377 World Health Organisation threshold for hearing loss. In the previous Lancet commission, we found 378 a RR of 1.9 for dementia in populations followed over 9-17 years, making reverse causation bias 379 unlikely.² Subsequent meta-analysis using the same three prospective studies measuring hearing using audiometry at baseline, found an increased risk of dementia (OR, 1.3; 95% Cl 1.0-1.6) per 10dB 380 381 of worsening of hearing loss. ⁵⁸ A cross-sectional study of 6451 individuals designed to be representative of the US population, with a mean age of 59.4, found a decrease in cognition with 382 383 every 10dB reduction in hearing and that continued to below the clinical threshold so that subclinical levels of hearing impairment (below 25 dB) were significantly related to lower cognition.⁵⁹ 384 385 While the aetiology still needs further clarification, a small US prospective cohort study of 194 adults 386 without baseline cognitive impairment, (baseline mean age 54.5 years), at least two brain MRIs, with 387 a mean of 19 years follow-up, found that audiometry measured midlife hearing impairment, is 388 associated with steeper temporal lobe volume loss, including in the hippocampus and entorhinal cortex. 60 389

390 *Hearing aids*

A 25-year prospective study of 3,777 people aged ≥65 found increased dementia incidence in those

- 392 with self-reported hearing problems except in those using hearing aids. ⁶¹ Similarly, a cross–sectional
- 393 study found hearing loss was associated with worse cognition only in those not using hearing aids. ⁶²
- A US nationally representative survey of 2040 people aged >50, tested two-yearly for 18 years,
- 395 found immediate and delayed recall deteriorated less after initiation of hearing aid use, adjusting for
- 396 other risk factors.⁶³ Hearing aid use remained the largest factor protecting from decline (regression
- coefficient β for higher episodic memory = 1.53; p <.001) adjusting for protective and harmful
 factors. The long follow-up times in these prospective studies suggest hearing aid use is protective,
- 399 rather than the possibility that those developing dementia are less likely to use hearing aids. It may
- 400 be that hearing loss is a mediating factor; for example, persons with hearing loss have reduced
- 401 cognitive stimulation

402 Traumatic brain injury

403 ICD defines mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) as concussion and severe TBI as skull fracture, oedema,

- 404 brain injury or bleed. Single, severe TBI is associated in humans, and mouse models, with
- 405 widespread hyperphosphorylated tau pathology, and mice with APOE ε4 compared to APOE ε3 allele
- 406 have more hippocampal hyper-phosphorylated tau post-TBI. ⁶⁴ ^{64,65} TBI is usually caused by car,
- 407 motorcycle and bicycle injuries; military exposures; boxing, horse riding and other recreational
- 408 sports; firearms; and falls⁶⁶. A nationwide Danish cohort study of nearly three million people aged \geq
- 409 50 years, for a mean of 10 years, found an increased dementia and AD risk in people with TBI
- 410 (respectively HR 1·2; 95% Cl 1·2- 1·3; HR 1·2; 95% Cl 1·1- 1·2). ⁶⁷ Dementia risk was highest in the 6
- 411 months after TBI (HR 4.1; 95% CI 3.8- 4.3) and increased with number of injuries (one TBI HR 1.2,
- 412 95% Cl 1·2 1·3; ≥5 TBIs HR 2·8, 95% Cl 2·1 3·8). Risk was higher for TBI than fractures in other body
- 413 areas (HR 1·3, 95% CI 1·3–1·3). It remained elevated after excluding those who developed dementia
- 414 <2 years after TBI, to reduce reverse causation bias. ⁶⁷

- Similarly, a Swedish cohort of over 3 million people aged ≥50 years, found TBI increased one-year
- 416 dementia risk (OR 3.5; 95% CI 3.2, 3.8); and risk remained elevated, albeit attenuated over 30 years
- 417 (O.R 1.3; 1.1, 1.4). ⁶⁸ ICD defined single mild TBI increased the risk of dementia less than severe and
- 418 multiple TBIs increased the risk further (mild, moderate and severe respectively, OR 1.6; 95% CI 1.6-
- 419 1.7; OR, 2.1; 2.0, 2.2; OR, 2.8; 2.5, 3.2 respectively). A nested case control study of early onset
- 420 clinically diagnosed AD within an established cohort also found TBI was a risk factor, increasing with
- 421 number and severity. ⁶⁹ There was a stronger risk of dementia nearer the time of the TBI, leading to
- 422 some people with early-onset AD.
- 423 Military veterans have a high risk of occupational TBI, and formal record keeping allows long-term
- follow up. A study of 178 779 veterans with propensity-matched veterans without TBI found
- dementia risk was associated with TBI severity: HR 2.4; 95% CI 2.1, 2.7 for mild TBI without loss of
- 426 consciousness (LOC); HR 2.5; 95% Cl 2.3-2.8 for mild TBI with LOC; and HR 3.8; 95% Cl 3.6-3.9 for
- 427 moderate to severe TBI.⁷⁰ Similarly women veterans with TBI had increased risk of dementia
- 428 compared to those without TBI; HR 1.5; 95% CI 1.0-2.2. 71
- 429 A cohort study of 28,815 older adults with concussion, found the risk of dementia doubled, with 1 in
- 430 6 developing dementia over a mean follow-up of 3.9 years, although those taking statins had a 13%
- 431 reduced risk of dementia compared to those who were not. They suggest further RCTs as statins
- 432 may mitigate injury-related brain oedema, oxidative stress, amyloid protein aggregation, and
- 433 neuroinflammation. ⁷²
- 434 The term chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) describes sports head injury, which is not yet fully
- 435 characterised and covers a broad range of neuropathologies and outcomes, with current views
- 436 largely conjecture.⁷³ The evidence has subsequently been strengthened by a study on Scottish
- 437 former soccer players reporting that they are more likely than controls to have AD specified on their
- 438 death certificates (HR 5.1; 95% CI 2.9-8.8) and to have been prescribed any dementia-related
- 439 medications (OR 4.9; 95% CI 3.8- 6.3but not on medical records.⁷⁴ The study controlled for socio-
- economic class based on residential address, which in footballers may differ from level of education
- and there will be confounding factors that could not be investigated.

442 Hypertension

- 443 Persistent mid-life hypertension is associated with increased risk of a late life dementia. In the
- 444 Framingham Offspring cohort comprising 1440 people, elevated systolic blood pressure (SBP ≥
- 140mmHg in mid-life; mean age 55 years) was associated with an increased risk of developing
- dementia (HR 1.6; 95% Cl 1.1,-2.4) over an 18 year follow-up period)¹². In this study risk increased
- 447 further if hypertension persisted into later life (mean age 69 years; HR 2.0; 95% CI 1.3,-3.1). In the
- same cohort, people in late mid-life (mean age 62 years) with ideal cardiovascular parameters
- 449 (current non-smoker, body mass index 18.5 25 kg/m, regular physical activity, healthy diet,
- 450 optimum BP <120/<80 mmHg, cholesterol, and normal fasting blood glucose) were compared to
- 451 people with at least one of these risks.⁷⁵ They had a lower 10-year risk of all-cause dementia (HR 0.8;
- 452 95% CI 0.1-1.0), vascular dementia (HR 0.5; 95% CI 0.3-0.8) and clinically diagnosed AD (HR 0.8; 95%
- 453 CI 0.6-1.0). In a UK cohort study of 8639 civil servants, a single measure of BP ≥130mmHg at age 50
- 454 but not at age 60 or 70 was associated with increased risk of dementia (HR 1.4; 95% CI 1.1, 1.7). ¹³ In
- 455 those with persistent SBP \geq 130 mmHg, from mean age 45 to 61 years, dementia risk is increased

- even if free of cardiovascular disease (CVD) relative to those without hypertension (HR 1.3; 95% CI1.0-1.7).
- 458 It is important to note that blood pressure declines in later life and that this decline is associated
- 459 with and, potentially caused by, dementia development (HR 2.4; 95% Cl 1.4- 4.2). ^{12,13 76} A further
- 460 cohort study has provided potential insights into mechanisms recently, reporting that midlife
- 461 hypertension, defined as from age 40, was associated with reduced brain volumes and increased
- 462 white matter hyperintensity volume but not amyloid deposition.⁷⁷

463 Antihypertensive drugs, aspirin and statins

- 464 The US and Puerto Rico Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT) trial in 9361 hypertensive
- adults aged \geq 50, was stopped early as there were significantly fewer cardiovascular events and
- deaths in the intensive treatment arm (aiming for systolic <120mm Hg; n=4678) in comparison to
- standard treatment (systolic <140mmHg; n=4683). ⁷⁸ Cognitive assessment continued after stopping
 the trial intervention in SPRINT MIND.⁷⁹ In the intensive compared to the standard treatment group,
- 400 the than intervention in 51 kind winds. In the intensive compared to the standard treatment group
- there were 7.2 dementia cases as opposed to 8.6 cases /1000 person-years (HR 0.8; 95% Cl 0.7-1.0)
- 470 within on average 2 years from the end of the intervention period and 5 years after baseline. Pre-
- specified secondary outcomes were also reduced in the intensive arm for MCI (14.6 vs 18.3
 cases/1000 person-years; HR, 0.8; 95% CI 0.7-1.0), combined MCI or dementia (20.2 vs 24.1
- 473 cases/1000 person-years; HR, 0.9; 95% Cl 0.7-1.0) ⁷⁹ making this the first trial to suggest reduction of
- 474 risk for MCI. Those who were lost to follow-up were at greater risk of dementia than those who
- 475 continued but follow-up data rates did not differ according to intervention group.⁸⁰
- 476 Four recent meta-analyses of blood pressure medications to lower high blood pressure with six
- 477 studies overlap have provided combined estimates of effects. All meta-analyses suggest reduced478 dementia in those in the interventions arms for outcomes of any dementia as well as clinically
- diagnosed AD. The first included RCTS of any drugs to lower blood pressure and reported a
- 480 reduction in risk of around 10% at marginal significance (relative risk [RR] 0.9; 95% CI 0.9-1.0).⁸¹
- 481 Meta-regression showed risk lowered more if the achieved systolic pressure differential was larger
- between the intervention and control group. The second included 15 trials and observational studies
- 483 of diuretics involving 52,599 people (median age 76 years) with 6.1 years median follow-up
- (dementia HR 0.8; 95% CI 0.8-0.9 and AD HR 0.8; 95% CI 0.7- 0.9). ⁸² The third included used
 individual participant data from six observational studies; (dementia HR 0.9; 95% CI 0.8 -1.0) and (AD
- 486 HR 0.8; 95% CI 0.7-1.0) (see Figure 4). ⁸³ The fourth focused on people prescribed calcium channel
- 487 blocker only, included 10 RCTs and observational studies comprising 75,239 hypertensive older
- 488 adults (median age 72 years), median follow-up 8.2 years found lowered dementia risk (RR 0.7; 95%
- 489 CI 0.6-0.9). ⁸⁴ A recent meta-analysis addressing which class of anti-hypertensive drug to use to
- 490 lower risk of either incident dementia or cognitive decline, found over 50 000 participants in 27
- 491 studies and reported there was no consistent difference in effect according to which class of drug
 492 was used.⁸⁵

	Studies (individuals, N)	Dementia cases, n		Hazard ratio (95% CI)	p value for heterogeneity	
Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors						
Alone or in combination (vs no drug users)	6 (12 521)	1100	⊢ 	0.97 (0.82–1.15)	0.32	
Alone (vs no drug users)	6 (11 112)	895	⊢	1.03 (0.83-1.27)	0.72	
Alone or in combination (vs other drug users)	6 (7794)	1080	⊢ ∔⊞ 1	1.11 (0.96–1.29)	0.43	
Alone (vs other drug users)	6 (6385)	875	⊢	1 ·16 (0·93–1·46)	0.48	
Angiotensin II receptor blockers						Page 16
Alone or in combination (vs no drug users)	3 (5737)	595 H		0.84 (0.58–1.21)	0.09	rage 10
Alone (vs no drug users)	3 (5073)	476 H		0.78 (0.5-1.22)	0.24	
Alone or in combination (vs other drug users)	3 (4559)	720	┝───╋──┼─┤	0.88 (0.71-1.09)	0.62	
Alone (vs other drug users)	3 (4039)	629 m		0.76 (0.53–1.09)	0.62	
β blockers						
Alone or in combination (vs no drug users)	6 (12 668)	1258	⊧ ₩ 4	0.86 (0.75-0.98)	0.58	
Alone (vs no drug users)	5 (9826)	888	⊧ ₽	0.96 (0.77-1.20)	0.27	
Alone or in combination (vs other drug users)	6 (7794)	1080	∊⋳⋳	0.95 (0.83-1.10)	0.41	
Alone (vs other drug users)	5 (5544)	752	⊢_ ∔⊞ ,	1.07 (0.89–1.30)	0.39	
Calcium channel blockers						
Alone or in combination (vs no drug users)	6 (12 469)	1098	⊧ ₩ Å	0.87 (0.75–1.01)	0.97	
Alone (vs no drug users)	6 (11 174)	900		0.92 (0.75–1.14)	0.97	
Alone or in combination (vs other drug users)	6 (7794)	1080	F	1.04 (0.86–1.24)	0.26	
Alone (vs other drug users)	6 (6639)	908	⊢ 	1.09 (0.89–1.35)	0.5	
Diuretics						
Alone or in combination (vs no drug users)	6 (12 588)	1257	⊢∎	0.87 (0.76-0.99)	0.52	
Alone (vs no drug users)	6 (10 623)	934	F	0.97 (0.76–1.24)	0.16	
Alone or in combination (vs other drug users)	6 (7794)	1080		0.95 (0.83–1.09)	0.91	
Alone (vs other drug users)	6 (5961)	782	⊢	1.05 (0.83–1.33)	0.26	
Any antihypertensive drugs						
Alone or in combination (vs no drug users)	6 (14 520)	1865	⊢	0.88 (0.79-0.98)	0.65	
χ ² =3·35, df=5; p=0·65, <i>l</i> ² =0·0%						
		0.5	0.71 1.0 1	⊐ ⊡41		

493

494 ⁸³Figure 4 Associations of antihypertensive medication use with incident dementia in

495 those with high blood pressure with permission

496 A Cochrane review reported good evidence that statins given to older people at risk of vascular

disease do not prevent cognitive decline or dementia. ⁸⁶ One RCT found 100mg aspirin versus

498 placebo in 19,114 healthy adults aged >65 did not reduce dementia (HR 1.0; 0.8-1.2), death, physical

disability or CVD over a period of 4.7 years.⁸⁷

500 Physical inactivity, exercise and fitness

501 Studies of physical activity are complex. Patterns of physical activity change with age, generation and

502 are different across sex, social class, cultures and with morbidity. The studies suggest a complicated

503 relationship with the potential for both risk reduction and reverse causation.

- 504 Meta-analyses of longitudinal observational studies of 1-21 years duration showed exercise to be
- associated with reduced risk of dementia.² A further overview of systematic reviews recently
- 506 concluded there was convincing evidence of physical activity protecting against clinically diagnosed
- 507 AD. ⁸⁸
- 508 Since the earlier Commission, the HUNT study of 28,916 participants aged 30-60 years has been
- 509 published, reinforcing the previous literature in this area. It was reported that at least weekly mid-
- 510 life moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (breaking into a sweat) was associated with reduced
- 511 dementia risk over a 25 year period of follow up (HR 0.8; 95% CI 0.6–1.1) but the confidence
- 512 intervals are wide.⁸⁹ In contrast the Whitehall Study reported on the 28-year follow-up of 10,308
- 513 people, found >2.5 hours self-reported moderate-to-vigorous physical activity/week, lowered

- 514 dementia risk over 10, but not 28 years.³³ Very long-term studies are unusual but there is one 44-
- 515 year study of just 191 women (mean age 50) recruited purposively to be representative of the
- 516 Swedish population. It reported that 32% of those with low measuring baseline peak fitness,, 25%
- 517 with medium, and 5% with high fitness developed dementia (high versus medium HR 0.1; 95% CI
- 518 0.03-0.5, low vs medium HR 1.4; 95% Cl 0.7-2.8). ⁹⁰

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- 519 An individual-level meta-analysis of 19 observational studies of relatively younger adults included
- 520 404,840 participants' data (mean baseline age 45.5 years; mean follow-up duration 14.9 years),
- 521 reporting an increased incidence of all-cause dementia (HR 1.4; 95% CI 1.2- 1.7) and clinically
- 522 diagnosed AD (HR 1.4; 95% CI 1.1- 1.7) in those who were physically inactive in the 10 year period
- 523 before diagnosis.⁹¹ Importantly, however, no difference in dementia risk measured 10-15 years
- before time of dementia incidence was found except in those with comorbid cardio-metabolic
- 525 disease (RR=1.3, 95% CI 0.8-2.1).
- 526 People may stop exercising due to prodromal dementia so inactivity may be either a consequence or
- 527 a cause or both in dementia and may be more of a risk in those with cardiovascular morbidity. As
- with other outcomes, exercise may be required to be sustained and continue nearer the time ofrisk⁹².

530 Trials of exercise

- 531 Since the original Commission several meta-analyses and systematic reviews have been published 532 with three high quality meta-analyses which we include. The first included 39 RCTs with an unclear 533 total number of participants examining moderate or vigorous exercise of any frequency lasting 45-60 minutes/session in cognitively normal adults aged >50 years. This reported global cognitive 534 535 improvements (standard mean difference; SMD= 0.3; 95% CI 0.2-0.4) for moderate or vigorous resistance (13 studies) or aerobic exercise (18 studies) lasting 45-60 minutes per session with no 536 difference between them but no effect found for yoga.⁹³ A second meta-analysis of RCTs in people 537 538 with MCI found global cognition improved in the intervention group (SMD 0.3; 95% CI 0.1-0.5) with 539 aerobic exercise having a higher effect (SMD: 0. 6; 95% CI 0.5-0.6). This study did not have dementia 540 as an outcome measure. A third meta-analysis of RCTs of longer term exercise found five studies (four lasting 12 months and one 24) with 2878 participants with normal baseline cognition.⁹⁴ The 541 542 incidence of dementia was 3.7% (n = 949) for exercisers and 6.1% (n = 1,017) for controls (random 543 effect RR = 0.6; 95% CI = 0.3-1.1; fixed effect as no evidence of heterogeneity RR = 0.7; 95% CI = 0.4-544 1.0). The authors concluded that there was no significant effect of exercise for reducing dementia, 545 MCI or clinically significant cognitive decline but the study was underpowered. WHO guidelines have been published since the first Commission, suggesting specific activity levels drawing on these, and 546 one further systematic review which considered sex differences on the effect of exercise. 93-96 It 547 concluded the evidence points towards physical activity having a small, beneficial effect on normal 548 cognition, with a possible effect in MCI, mostly due to aerobic exercise.⁹⁷ There is a lack of evidence 549 about the effect of specific types of exercise, such as progressive muscle resistance training on 550
- 551 dementia risk.

552 Diabetes mellitus

- 553 In the earlier Commission we reported on diabetes as a risk factor for dementia. It is challenging to
- distinguish between treated and untreated diabetes as a risk factor for dementia in observational
- studies. In a pooled meta-analysis from over 2.3 million individuals with type 2 diabetes across 14

- cohort studies, including 102,174 with dementia. In this diabetes was associated with an increased
 risk of any dementia (women: RR 1.6; 95% Cl 1.5-1.8; men: RR 1.6; 95% Cl 1.4,-1.8). ⁹⁸ The risk of
- 558 dementia increased with the length and severity of diabetes. The relationship with different diabetic
- 559 medications on cognition or dementia outcomes remains unclear as few studies have investigated
- 560 this area. ⁹⁹ However, one meta-analysis of cohort studies of diabetes reported that, cross
- sectionally, people with diabetes taking metformin had lower prevalence of cognitive impairment (3
- 562 studies, OR 0.6; 95% CI 0.4-0.8) and, longitudinally, reduced dementia incidence (6 studies HR 0.8;
- 563 95% CI 0.4-0.9) compared with those taking other medications or no medication. ¹⁰¹ However
- another did not find a protective effect of metformin for incident dementia (3 studies, risk ratio (RR)
- 565 1.1; 95% CI 0.5 to 2.4) with possible harm with insulin therapy (RR 1.2; 95% CI 1.1 1.4); but this did
- not account for severity of diabetes of those with type 2 diabetes on insulin.⁹⁹ A Cochrane review
- reported intensive compared to standard diabetes control trials with 5 year follow up (n = 11,140) no impact on cognitive decline (RR 1.0; 95% Cl 0.9-1.1) or dementia (RR 1.3; 95% Cl 0.9- 1.9).¹⁰⁰
- 569 Overall type 2 diabetes is a clear risk factor for development of future dementia but it is unclear that 570 any particular medication ameliorates this risk. Intensive diabetic control does not decrease the risk
- 571 of dementia.

572 Combined cardiovascular risk factors

- 573 Studies of individual cardiovascular risk factors usually control for other cardiovascular risks, which 574 cluster in individual people. This does not take into account the combinations and contexts in which 575 risk occurs. A UK study of 7899 people aged 50 followed for 25 years, calculated a cardiovascular 576 health score based on seven items- behavioural (smoking, diet, physical activity, body mass index) 577 and biological (fasting glucose, blood cholesterol, blood pressure) each coded as 0, 1 or 2.¹⁰¹ A better 578 score was associated with a lower risk of dementia (HR 0.9 95% CI 0.9-1.0 per 1 point scale 579 increment), for both behavioural and biological subscales (HR/ 1 point increment in subscales 0.9; 580 95% CI 0.8-0.9) and 0.9 (95% CI 0.8-1.00), respectively), maintained in people free of cardiovascular 581 disease over the follow-up (HR/ 1 point increment 0.9; 95% CI. 0.8- 1.0). These authors also reported 582 an association of the score on the scale with hippocampal atrophy and total brain volume but not 583 white matter hyperintensities. This underlines the importance of clustering of cardiovascular risk factors in midlife, as studies of individual risk factors in this sample had not shown this significant 584
- 585 association, when controlling for other individual risks.³³

586 Excessive alcohol

- Heavy drinking is associated with brain changes, cognitive impairment and dementia, a risk known
 for centuries. ¹⁰² There is increasing evidence emerging on alcohol's complex relationship with
 cognition and dementia outcomes from a variety of sources including detailed cohorts and largescale
 record based studies. Alcohol is strongly associated with cultural patterns and other sociocultural
- and health related factors, making it particularly challenging to understand the evidence base.
- 592 A French 5-year longitudinal study of over 31 million people admitted to hospital, found alcohol use
- 593 disorders (harmful use or dependence as defined in International Classification of Disease; ICD) were
- associated with increased dementia risk, calculated separately for men and women (women HR 3·3;
- 595 95% CI 3·3-3·4; men 3·4; 95% CI 3·3- 3·4). ¹⁰³ The relationship of dementia with alcohol use disorder
- 596 was particularly clear in the earlier onset dementias (age less than 65 years) in which 56.6% had an
- alcohol use disorder noted in their records (n=57,353; 5.2% all dementias).

- 598 A systematic review incorporating 45 studies of light to moderate drinking using a variety of 599 definitions reported a reduced risk compared to not drinking (RR 0.7; 95%CI 0.6-0.91). ¹⁰⁴ Risk was 600 not reported separately for men and women. Drinking no more than 21 units/week (equivalent to 14 drinks) may be associated with a lower risk of dementia.^{106 105} There were few heavy drinkers in a 5-601 602 year follow-up study of 13342 men and women volunteers from UK biobank aged 40-73 years old who drank and the study did not analyse abstainers.¹⁰⁶ It reported that those who drank more than 603 604 one drink every day (equivalent to > 12 units/week) declined slightly more in reaction time in a 605 perceptual matching task than those who drank less ($\beta 2 = -0.07$, 95% Cl -0.09 - -0.04). ¹⁰⁶ In the UK 606 Whitehall study with 23 years follow-up, there were 9087 participants aged 35-55 years at baseline. 607 ¹⁰⁷ Drinking >21 units/week and long term abstinence were both associated with a 17% (95% CI 4-32 and 13-23 respectively) increase in dementia compared to <14 units. Drinking >14 units was also 608
- 609 associated with associated MRI right sided hippocampal atrophy. ¹⁰⁸

610

611 Weight control and obesity

- Overweight is an emerging concern, given the changing BMI across the world's ageing population.
- 613 There is new evidence for the relationship between increased BMI and dementia from a review of 19
- 614 longitudinal studies including 589,649 people aged 35 to 65 years, followed for up to 42 years. It
- for reported obesity (BMI \ge 30; RR 1.3, 95% CI 1.1-1.6) but not being overweight (BMI 25- 30; RR 1.1, 1.1, 1.1) but not being overweight (BMI 25- 30; RR 1.1)
- 616 95% Cl 1.0-1.2) was associated with late-life dementia. ¹⁰⁹ In a further meta-analysis of individual
- 617 level data from 1.3 million adults (aged ≥18years), which included two studies from the meta-
- analysis cited above, ¹⁰⁹ higher body mass measured before likely preclinical and prodromal
- dementia was associated with increased dementia risk (RR 1.3; 1.1-1.7/ 5-unit increase in BMI).¹¹

620 Weight loss in mid-life and dementia risk

- A meta-analysis of seven RCTs (468 participants) and 13 longitudinal studies (551 participants) of
- overweight and obese adults without dementia, mean age 50, found weight loss of ≥ 2 kg in people
- 623 with BMI>25 was associated with a significant improvement in attention and memory. In all but one
- of the studies participants were aged under 65 years old. The RCTs reported memory improvement
- 625 over 8-48 weeks (SMD = 0.4; 95% CI 0.2–0.6) and longitudinal studies found SMD = 0.7; 95% CI 0.5–
- 626 0.8 but there is no data about the long-term effects or the effect of weight loss in preventing
- 627 dementia.¹¹⁰

628 Smoking

- 629 Smokers are at higher risk of dementia than non-smokers,² and at a higher risk of premature death
- 630 before the age at which they might have developed dementia, introducing some bias and
- 631 uncertainty in the association between smoking and risk of dementia.^{111,112} Stopping smoking, even
- 632 when older, reduces this risk. Among 50,000 men age >60, stopping smoking for >4 years, compared
- to continuing, reduced dementia risk over the subsequent 8 years substantially (HR 0.9; 95% CI 0.7-
- 634 1.0). Worldwide, it has been estimated that 35% of non-smoking adults and 40% of children are
- 635 exposed to second-hand smoke (SHS).¹¹³ There is scarce literature on the impact of this exposure
- and dementia risk. One study indicated that in middle-aged women aged 55-64, SHS exposure was
- associated with more memory deterioration and the risk increased with exposure duration even
- 638 after controlling for other confounding factors.

639 Depression

- 640 Depression is associated with dementia incidence, with a variety of possible psychological or 641 physiological mechanisms. It is also part of the prodrome and early stages of dementia. Reverse 642 causation is also possible whereby depressive symptoms result from dementia neuropathology 643 which occur years before clinical dementia onset. These explanations are not mutually exclusive. As 644 in diabetes, few studies considering depression as a risk factor for dementia have distinguished 645 between treated and untreated depression. In a meta-analysis of 32 studies, with 62 598 646 participants, with follow-up from 2 to 17 years, a depressive episode was a risk factor for dementia 647 (pooled effect size 2.0; 95% Cl 1.7-2.3).¹¹⁴ Meta-regression analysis revealed a non-significant trend for the association between depression and incident dementia to be weaker when the length of 648 649 follow-up was longer (pooled effect size 1.97, 95% CI 1.67-2.32). In the Norwegian HUNT study, there was suggestion that symptoms of psychological distress predicted dementia 25 years later 650 however with wide bounds of uncertainty (HR 1.3; 95% CI 1.0–1.7).⁸⁹ Two further studies 651 652 differentiate between late-life and earlier life depressive symptoms. The UK Whitehall study, in a follow up of 10189 people, report that in late life these increase dementia risk but not at younger 653 ages (follow-up 11 years HR 1.7; 95% CI 1.2-2.4; follow-up 22 years HR, 1.0; 95% CI, 0.7-1.4). ^{34,115} A 654 14 year longitudinal study of 4922 initially cognitively healthy men, aged 71-89 years, found 655 656 depression was associated with 1.5 (95% CI 1.2-2.0) times the incidence of dementia but this 657 association was accounted for by people developing dementia within 5 years of depression. ¹²⁰ The 658 use of antidepressants did not decrease this risk.
- In a study of 755 people with MCI from the Australian longitudinal Alzheimer's Disease
- 660 Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) with a history of depression, considered the effect of SSRI treatment
- as citalopram is known to reduce amyloid plaque generation and plaque formation in animal models.
- 662 It found that >4 years SSRI treatment was associated with delayed progression to clinically diagnosed
- AD. It seems likely that people treated with antidepressants will differ from those who are not.
- 664 Thus, the question of whether antidepressant treatment mitigates dementia risk remains open.

665 Social contact

666 Social contact, now an accepted protective factor, enhance cognitive reserve or encourage beneficial behaviours, although isolation may also occur as part of the dementia prodrome. Several recent 667 668 studies suggest that lower social contact increases the risk of dementia. Although most people in 669 mid and later life are married, by the time they reach older age disproportionate numbers of women 670 are widowed as they outlive their husbands reducing their social contact. In these generations, 671 marital status is therefore important contributor to social engagement. Additionally, most marriages 672 are in the relatively young, and married people usually have more interpersonal contact than do 673 single people this gives a long-term estimate of the effect of social contact A systematic review and 674 meta-analysis including 812,047 people worldwide found dementia risk to be elevated in lifelong 675 single (RR 1.4; 95% CI 1.1-1.9) and widowed people (RR 1.2; 95% CI 1.0-1.4), compared with married, 676 people and the association was consistent in different socio-cultural settings. Studies adjusted for 677 sex and we do not know if there is a differential risk between men and women. Differences persisted 678 in studies that adjusted for education and physical health so may be attributable to married people 679 having more social contact, although residual confounding is possible. A systematic review and meta-analysis of 51 longitudinal cohort studies of social isolation and cognition included 102,035 680 participants aged \geq 50 years at baseline, with follow-up ranging from 2-21 years. ¹¹⁶ High social 681 682 contact (measured through either or both of social activity and social network) was associated with

- 683 better late-life cognitive function (r=0.05, 95% CI: 0.04- 0.065) and there were no differences 684 according to sex or length of time followed-up.
- 685 A new meta-analysis found that in long-term studies (>10 years), good social engagement was
- 686 modestly protective (n=8876, RR = 0.9; 95% CI 0.8-1.0); but in the loneliness meta-analysis, loneliness
- was not associated with dementia risk.¹¹⁷ There have been no long term (>10 years) studies of 687

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- 688 loneliness and dementia outcomes.
- 689 A UK 28-year follow-up study of 10,308 people found that more frequent social contacts at age 60 690 years was associated with lower dementia risk over 15 years of follow-up (HR for one standard
- 691 deviation social contact frequency 09; 95% CI 0.8-1.0). This suggests more frequent social contact
- 692 during late middle age is associated with a modest reduction in dementia risk, independent of socio-
- economic and other lifestyle factors. ¹¹⁸ A Japanese longitudinal cohort study of 13 984 adults aged 693 694 >65 years old with mean 10 years follow-up calculated a five point social contact scale based on
- 695 marital status, exchanging support with family members, having contact with friends, participating in
- 696 community groups and engaging in paid work. It found the score to be linearly associated with
- 697 reduced dementia risk; those who scored highest on the five-point scale were 46% less likely to
- develop incident dementia compared with those in the lowest category. ¹¹⁹ 698
- 699 Despite clear cultural variation in the meaning and perception of social isolation, findings of
- 700 protective effect of more social contact are largely consistent in different settings and for either sex across the studies and meta-analyses.^{116,120,121} 701

702 Social interventions

- 703 There is little evidence of the effects of social interventions but a systematic review of low quality
- 704 RCTs of 576 adults aged ≥60 with normal cognition found facilitated meeting and discussion groups
- 705 were associated with improved global cognition and increased brain volume at follow-up.¹²⁰

706 **Air pollutants**

- 707 Air pollution and particulate pollutants are associated with poor health outcomes, including those
- 708 related to non-communicable diseases. Attention has turned to their potential effect on the brain.
- 709 Animal models suggest airborne particulate pollutants accelerate neurodegenerative processes
- 710 through cerebrovascular and cardiovascular disease, Aβ deposition, and Amyloid Precursor Protein
- (APP) processing.^{122,123} While the higher levels of dementia from air pollutants are still subject to the 711
- 712 potential for residual confounding, the effects on animal models are also evidence of physiological
- 713 effects over and above those driven by lifecourse deprivation.
- 714 High nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration (>41.5 μ g/m³; adjusted HR 1.2; 95% Cl 1.0-1.3), fine
- ambient particulate matter (PM 2.5) from traffic exhaust (adjusted HR 1.1; 95% CI 1.0-1.2) 124-126 and 715
- PM_{2.5} from residential wood burning (HR=1.6, 95% Cl 1.0–2.4 for a 1 µg/m3 increase) are associated 716
- with increased dementia incidence. Traffic often produces NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and it is hard to separate 717
- 718 their effects, although there is evidence for additive effects of different pollutants.¹²⁴⁻¹²⁶ A
- systematic review of studies until 2018 found 13 longitudinal studies with 1-15 years follow-up of air 719
- 720 pollutants exposure and incident dementia, exposure to PM_{2.5}, NO₂ and carbon monoxide were all
- 721 associated with increased dementia risk. ²⁴ The attributable burden of dementia and excess death
- 722 from PM_{2.5} in one large 10-year US study was particularly high in black or African American

- 723 individuals and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and related to particulate levels
- above the US guidelines.¹²⁷ 724

725 Sleep

726 Mechanisms by which sleep may effect dementia remain unclear, but sleep disturbance has been

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- 727 linked with Aβ deposition,^{128,129} reduced glymphatic clearance pathways activation,¹³⁰ low grade
- inflammation, increased Tau, hypoxia^{129,131} and CVD. ¹³² Sleep disturbance is hypothesised to 728
- 729 increase inflammation which raises β -amyloid burden leading to AD and further sleep disturbance.¹³³
- 730 There are two recent meta-analyses with similar findings. The first was a synthesis of longitudinal
- 731 studies with an average of 9.5 years follow-up and the second reported cross-sectional and
- 732 prospective cohort studies of mixed quality with different methods of measuring sleep. They defined
- 733 sleep disturbances broadly; often it was self-reported and included short and long sleep duration,
- 734 poor sleep quality, circadian rhythm abnormality, insomnia and obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA). They were all associated with a higher risk of all-cause dementia (RR 1.2; 95% CI 1.1-1.3)¹³⁴ and 735
- 736 clinically diagnosed AD (RR 1.6; 95% CI 1.3-1.9) compared to no sleep disturbance, though not all
- 737 cohort studies excluded those with cognitive impairment or dementia at baseline from their
- 738 analyses.¹³⁵ A U-shaped association has been reported between sleep duration and risk of MCI or
- 739 dementia with higher risks of dementia with <5 hours or (HR=2.6; 95% Cl 1.4-5.1) < 7 hours and >9
- 740 or 10 hours sleep (HR=2.2; 95% CI 1.4-3.5) and risks for all-cause dementia and clinically diagnosed
- AD being similar.¹³⁶ 132,137,138 741
- 742 The postulated mechanisms of reduced sleep leading to accumulation of Alzheimer's Type pathology
- 743 is inconsistent with the evidence that both more and less sleep are associated with increased risk of
- 744 dementia. New onset late-life sleep disturbance, a few years before clinical dementia, may be part of
- 745 the natural history of the dementia syndrome, appearing to be a risk factor, or reflect other
- disorders, for example, mood disturbances or CVD. ^{132,139} Hypnotic use may increase risks although 746
- 747 this is unclear and a recent study suggest that findings of a connection were related to reverse
- 748 causality and confounders .^{136 140} When benzodiazepine use was considered, in one sleep length was
- 749 no longer significant ¹³⁶ but not in all studies. ¹³² Those taking hypnotics were at greater risk of
- dementia than those who did not whatever the sleep duration. ¹³⁶ Medication for sleep disturbance 750
- 751 may be harmful and benzodiazepines are associated with falls, hospital admissions and possibly
- dementia. 141 136 752

753 Diet

Nutrition and dietary components are challenging to research with controversies still raging around 754 755 the role of many micronutrients and health outcomes in dementia. There has been a focus on 756 individual components ranging from folate and B vitamins, Vitamin C, D, E and selenium amongst others in observational studies as potential protective factors.⁸⁸ There has been a move towards 757 758 considering the evidence base for whole diets in recent years, particularly high plant intake such as in the Mediterranean diet (MeDi) or the similar Nordic diet, rather than individual nutrients, which 759 760 might reduce cognitive decline and dementia. ¹⁴² One example of this is a longitudinal cohort study 761 of 960 participants, ages 58-99 years, in which those reporting the highest intake of green leafy 762 vegetables, equivalent to 1.3 servings/day, declined less cognitively over 4.7 years than those 763 reporting the lowest intake (β = 0.05 standardized units 95%CI 0.02 - 0.07). ¹⁴³ The authors report

764 this difference as being equivalent to being 11 years younger. A further prospective cohort study

- with three midlife dietary assessments in 8,255 people, followed for a mean of nearly 25 years,
- found neither healthy dietary pattern nor Mediterranean diet protected from dementia, except in
- those with CVD, suggesting that diet may influence dementia risk by protecting from the excess risk
- 768 of cardiovascular risk factors. ¹⁴⁴
- 769

770 Dietary interventions

As well as whole diets, there has been some interest in multi-nutrient interventions. A systematic

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- review and a Cochrane review including RCTs of supplements (A, B, C, D and E; calcium, zinc, copper
- and multivitamins trials, n-3 fatty acids, antioxidant vitamins and herbs) found a lack of evidence for
- supplement use to preserve cognitive function or prevent dementia in middle-aged or older
- people.^{145, 146} Recent updated Cochrane reviews found no evidence for beneficial effects on
- cognition of those with MCl of supplementation with B vitamins for six to 24 months¹⁴⁷ or with
 vitamin E in preventing progression from MCl to dementia. ¹⁴⁸ A 24-month RCT of 311 people of a
- multi-nutrient drink containing DHA, vitamins B12, B6, folic acid and other nutrients; found no
 significant effect on preventing cognitive deterioration in prodromal AD. ¹⁴⁹ The authors comment
- 780 that the control group's cognitive decline was much lower than expected, leading to an inadequately
- 781 powered trial.
- 782 Meta-analysis of two RCTs with 471 participants with normal cognition found the MeDi diet (high
- intake of vegetables, legumes, fruits, nuts, cereals, and olive oil; low intake of saturated lipids and
- meat) improved global cognition compared to controls (SMD 0.2; 95% CI 0.0-0.4). A further meta-
- analysis identified five RCTs (n=1888) with a weak effect on global cognition (SMD 0.2; 95% Cl 0.0 –
- 786 $(0.5)^{150}$ but no benefit of MeDi for incident cognitive impairment or dementia.
- 787 The WHO guidelines recommend a Mediterranean diet to reduce the risk of cognitive decline or
- dementia, as it may help and does not harm, but conclude Vitamins B and E, PUFA and multi complex supplementation should *not be recommended*.⁹⁷

790 Trials of combination strategies to prevent dementia

- 791 The FINGER RCT was a 2-year multidomain intervention to prevent cognitive decline and dementia
- in 1260 people with cardiovascular risk factors aged 60–77 years, recruited from a Finnish national
- survey. Similar multidomain studies were discussed in the earlier commission.² FINGER found a small
- 794 group reduction in cognitive decline in the intervention group compared to control (comprehensive
- neuropsychological test battery Z score 0.02; 95% Cl 0.00, 0.04) regardless of baseline
- sociodemographic, socioeconomic, cognitive or cardio-vascular status. ¹⁵¹ However, in a subgroup
- analysis, there were greater beneficial effects on processing speed in individuals with higher baseline
- 798 cortical thickness in Alzheimer's disease areas. ¹⁵²
- 799 The healthy ageing through internet counselling in the elderly (HATICE) study recruited 2724 older
- 800 people (≥65 years) in the Netherlands, Finland and France with two or more cardiovascular risk
- 801 factors. ^{153,154} It compared an interactive internet platform plus remote support by a coach, aiming to
- 802 improve self-management of vascular risk factors, with a non-interactive control platform with basic
- 803 health information. There was a small improvement in the cardiovascular risk composite primary
- 804 outcome in the intervention group compared to control group at 18 months, mainly through weight
- 805 loss the cognition secondary outcomes, although the predicted dementia risk score was slightly

- 806 lower in those who received the intervention (mean difference -0.15, -0.3 to -0.0). There was a
- 807 larger effect in the younger age group (65–70 years) and those with the lowest level of education,
- 808 who had a higher baseline risk, suggesting that targeting high-risk populations may be more
- 809 effective. There are currently several ongoing multidomain preventative trials e.g. Worldwide
- 810 Fingers.

811

812 Table 1: Population Attributable Fraction (PAF) for 12 dementia risk factors

813 PAF is the relative contribution of each risk factor to the overall PAF when adjusted for communality

814

Risk factor	Relative Risk for dementia (95% Cl)	Risk factor prevalence (%)	Communality (%)	Unweighted PAF (%)	Weighted PAF* (%)	Page
Early life (<45)						
Less education	1.6 (1.3-2.0)	40.0	61.2	19.4	7.1	
Mid-life (age 45-65)						
Hearing loss	1.9 (1.4-2.7)	31.7	45.6	22.2	8.2	
Traumatic brain injury	1.8 (1.5-2.2)	12.1	55.2	9.2	3.4	
Hypertension	1.6 (1.2-2.2)	8.9	68.3	5.1	1.9	
Alcohol >21units/week	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	11.8	73.3	2.1	0.8	
Obesity (Body Mass Index ≥30)	1.6 (1.3-1.9)	3.4	58.5	2.0	0.7	
Later life (age >65)						
Smoking	1.6 (1.2-2.2)	27.4	62.3	14.1	5.2	
Depression	1.9 (1.6-2.3)	13.2	69.8	10.6	3.9	
Social isolation	1.6 (1.3-1.9)	11.0	28.1	4.2	3.5	
Physical inactivity	1.4 (1.2-1.7)	17.7	55.2	9.6	1.6	
Diabetes	1.5 (1.3-1.8)	6.4	71.4	3.1	1.1	
Air pollution	1.1 (1.1-1.1)	75.0	13.3	6.3	2.3	
Overall weighted PAF					39.7%	

815 **Total PAF calculation**

We incorporated excessive alcohol consumption, TBI and air pollution into our life-course model of
dementia because of the updated evidence. To calculate new RRs for excessive alcohol
consumption, TBI and air pollution, we systematically reviewed the literature and performed new
meta-analyses for excessive alcohol consumption and TBI. For the other nine factors, we used
values for RR and risk factors prevalence from our previous analysis and calculated communality
using the same method.²

822 Incorporation of the new chosen risks new systematic reviews

823 Alcohol

824 We searched, from inception to 29th October 2019, Embase, Allied and Complementary Medicine,

825 Medline and PsycINFO terms "dementia" OR "dement*" OR "AD" OR "VaD", "Alzheimer*" AND

826 "alcohol" OR "ethanol" OR "alcohol*" OR "drink*" OR "drunk*" to update an earlier review.¹⁵⁵

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- 827 Inclusion criteria
- Original population-based cohort studies measuring drinking during midlife, as alcohol
 intake tends to fall with age, ¹⁵⁶
- Alcohol consumption quantified at baseline by units or number of drinks (one drink = 1.5 units) per week
 - All-cause dementia ascertained at follow-up using validated clinical measures.

833 We contacted authors for additional data. ¹⁵⁷ Three studies met our inclusion criteria. ^{107,157,158} We

834 converted HRs to RRs¹⁵⁹ and used raw data¹⁵⁷ to calculate RR,¹⁶⁰ for our random effects meta-

analysis using Generic Inverse Variance Methods. The RR associated with drinking > 21 units (14

drinks; 168g) of alcohol weekly, compared to lighter drinking was 1.18; 95% Cl 1.06, 1.31 (Figure 5).

837 We used Health Survey England (HSE) figures for heavier drinking prevalence to calculate PAF as we

could not find a worldwide estimate. The weighted PAF was 0.8.

			Drinking >21 units/week	Drinking <21 units/week		Risk Ratio	Risk Ratio
Study or Subgroup	log[Risk Ratio]	SE	Tota	Total	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	IV, Random, 95% Cl
Handing et al 2015	0.17	0.09	300	9153	37.3%	1.19 [0.99, 1.41]	ŧ
Jarvenpaa et al 2005	0.29	0.53	23	310	1.1%	1.34 [0.47, 3.78]	
Sabia et al 2018	0.16	0.07	2232	5552	61.6%	1.17 [1.02, 1.35]	•
Total (95% CI)			2555	15015	100.0%	1.18 [1.06, 1.31]	•
Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0. Test for overall effect: Z	.00; Chi ^z = 0.06, c = 3.00 (P = 0.003	f = 2	(P = 0.97); I ^z = 0%				0.01 0.1 1 10 100 Lower dementia risk Higher dementia risk

839

832

840 Figure 5: Meta-analysis of relative risk of dementia associated with drinking >21 units of

alcohol/week in midlife compared to lighter consumption of alcohol

842 Traumatic brain injury

843 To estimate the RR of TBI of all severities for all cause dementia, we searched Embase, Medline and

844 PsycINFO from 1st January 2016 to 21st October 2019, updating an earlier search, ¹⁶¹ using terms

845 ("traumatic brain injury" or "head injury" or "brain injury" or TBI) AND (neurodegeneration or

846 "cognitive dysfunction" or dementia or "alzheimer's disease" or "parkinson's disease" or

847 "frontotemporal dementia"). We converted HR figures to RR. ^{159 162}

848 Inclusion criteria:

- Original population-based cohort studies
- 850 Baseline TBI of all severities reported
- All-cause dementia ascertained at follow-up using validated clinical measures.

852 We combined four new studies meeting inclusion criteria ^{67 68 71 163} with the four studies

- 853 meeting criteria from the original review in a random effects meta-analysis. ¹⁶¹ The pooled RR
- was 1.84; 95% CI 1.54 -2.20 for all cause dementia from all severities of TBI (Figure 6) though
- there was heterogeneity in study-specific estimates, possibly because of different populations.
- 856 We used the TBI adult population prevalence of 12.1% from a meta-analysis to calculate PAF.¹⁶⁴

The weighted PAF was 3.4.

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858

				Risk Ratio	Risk Ratio
Study or Subgroup	log[Risk Ratio]	SE	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	IV, Random, 95% Cl
Abner 2014	-0.27	0.353	4.6%	0.76 [0.38, 1.52]	
Chu 2016	1.161	0.098	13.0%	3.19 [2.64, 3.87]	
Fann 2018	0.211	0.012	15.3%	1.23 [1.21, 1.26]	•
Gardner 2014	0.383	0.021	15.2%	1.47 [1.41, 1.53]	•
Nordstrom 2014	1.385	0.107	12.7%	3.99 [3.24, 4.93]	
nordstrom 2018	0.569	0.013	15.3%	1.77 [1.72, 1.81]	•
Wang 2012	0.548	0.034	15.0%	1.73 [1.62, 1.85]	+
Yaffe 2019	0.397	0.198	8.9%	1.49 [1.01, 2.19]	
Total (95% CI)			100.0%	1.84 [1.54, 2.20]	•
Heterogeneity: Tau ² =	0.05; Chi² = 585.	07, df =	7 (P < 0.0)0001); I² = 99%	
Test for overall effect: Z = 6.70 (P < 0.00001)					reduced risk increased risk



Figure 6: Meta-analysis of relative risk of all-cause dementia associated with all severity
 midlife Traumatic Brain Injury

862 **Pollution**

A 2019 systematic review synthesised observational studies, finding consistently increased risk of 863 864 dementia from air pollution, but heterogeneous comparator groups precluded meta-analysis.²⁴ We 865 updated the search, using the same search terms and searching MEDLINE, Embase, and PsychINFO from 20 September 2018 (the end date of the last search) to 22nd October 2019. We included 866 867 longitudinal studies with assessment of all cause air pollution exposure; use of formal assessment of 868 cognitive function at baseline; report of incident all cause dementia, data from adults (age \geq 18); 869 and a minimum follow up 6 months. We therefore used data from the only study of all-cause air 870 pollution with the outcome of all cause dementia, with low-moderate risk of bias. This population-871 based, observational cohort was from Ontario, Canada, where pollutant concentrations are among 872 the lowest in the world and examined 2,066,639 people, with a mean baseline age of 67¹⁶⁵. We 873 calculated the RR of dementia for those in the three highest quartiles compared to the lowest was 874 1.09 (1.07-1.11). The attributable fraction for exposure to the highest three quartiles versus the lowest quartile of PM_{2.5} and NO₂ was 6.1% (4.8-7.5). The weighted PAF was 2.3. 875

876 **PAF calculation**

- 877 We used a representative sample of over 10,000 UK community-dwelling adults, to calculate
- 878 communality (clustering of risk factors) of 11 risk factors for which data existed,¹⁶⁶ to allow
- calculation of each factor's unique risk. As we could find no datasets measuring TBI, and the other 11
- risk factors of interest, we could not calculate its communality. We therefore used the mean of the
- other 11 communalities to calculate a weighted PAF, so we could include TBI. We used cohabitation
- as a proxy measure for social contact, and urbanicity for air pollution exposure. Our analysis found
- four principal components, explaining 55% of the total variance between the eleven risk factors,

- suggesting substantial overlap. Appendix 1 shows the PAF formula and the steps in calculating
- communality. Table 1 displays the prevalence, communality, relative risk, unweighted and weighted
- 886 PAFs adjusted for communality. We present in Figure 7 the new updated life course model of
- 887 potentially modifiable risks factors for dementia. Figure 7 the updated life course model of







891 Strengths and limitations

- 892 This is the most comprehensive analysis to date and updates the earlier Lancet Commission with
- 893 emerging risk factor evidence convincing enough to calculate PAF for potentially reversible risk
- factors. We reviewed the literature systematically for the chosen risk factors, and provided
- 895 illustrative recent literature. Using this we have updated our synthesis and identified data to
- calculate communality. We find a hopeful picture with an updated estimate of around 40% of all
- cases of dementia being associated with 12 potentially modifiable risk factors.
- 898 We have made assumptions to calculate this new model. We used global figures for dementia risk 899 although we know the risk factors prevalence vary between countries and most global research is 900 from high-income countries, so LMIC are under-represented because of lack of data. We have 901 assumed a causal relationship between risk factors and dementia, although we have been cautious 902 and not included risk factors with less good evidence. There is no single database with all 12 risk 903 factors together, but we found 11 in a UK database and used the mean figure for communality 904 calculations for TBI. We calculated communality for the other 11. We do not know how far findings 905 of communality in other geographical populations might differ, or in those with a differing 906 distribution of age groups or sex. We found that social isolation was not explicitly measured and had
- 907 to use proxies, such as cohabitation when considering prevalence, which are approximate.
- 908 Specifically, evidence for the association of alcohol misuse with dementia comes from high-income 909 countries and future studies from low- and middle-income countries are need to complete the 910 picture. Exposure to air pollution changes over a lifetime and is inextricably linked to poverty and deprivation. However, the effects on animal models suggests specific physiological effects over and 911 912 above those driven by lifecourse deprivation. We also considered the overlap with education for this 913 and other risk factors and the correction for education, strongly inversely linked to deprivation, will 914 address at least some of the confounding. However, the results in one study which reported the 915 effect of air pollution on incident dementia showed very little difference in estimates before and after adjustment for education and other risk factors suggests there is little residual confounding.¹⁶⁵ 916 917 We were also unable to meta-analyse data on pollution and thus unlike the other relative risks the
- figure comes from only one study, from an area of low pollution so is likely to be an underestimate.
- 919 The longitudinal evidence linking potentially modifiable risk factors to dementia generally fulfils 920 causality criteria in observational data (strength, consistency, biological plausibility, temporality, 921 dose-response, coherence and quasi-experimental studies, for example, more education or using 922 hearing aids). When measuring a risk nearer to the age of dementia onset, then it is more likely that 923 prodromal change affects, or even causes it. Alternatively, a risk factor may act on preclinical 924 pathology or even cause dementia near the time of exposure. Thus, alcohol and TBI are particularly 925 important in young-onset dementia, although most early onset dementias relate to genetic risks. 926 Risk factors may also matter more at a time of higher biological vulnerability, which the studies we 927 have drawn on cannot establish. The length of exposure required for risk or protection effect, and 928 their inter-relationships as they change across life is unclear - it seems likely that longer or more 929 intense exposure has stronger effects. Additionally, as our communality figures show, risk factors 930 overlap. We cannot establish from these data if having multiple risk factors has an additive or 931 synergistic effect. Association does not prove causation, however, as already noted, the reductions 932 in prevalence and incidence in several high income countries suggests that at least some of the risk 933 factors estimated here do have a causal relationship with the clinical expression of dementia.

934 Key points and recommendations

- 935 We judge there is sufficient new evidence to add three additional modifiable risk factors for
- 936 dementia to our earlier Commission model (alcohol, traumatic brain injury, and air pollution). We
- 937 have been able to add updated evidence on the nine risk factors implicated in the first commission
- 938 (education, hypertension, hearing impairment, smoking, obesity, depression, inactivity, diabetes and
- 939 social contact). Reduction of these risk factors may be protective for people with or without a
- 940 genetic risk, although study findings have not been entirely consistent.^{167,168} ^{169,170} As we noted in
- 941 the previous Commission others have previously calculated an estimate of the risk associated with
- 942 APOE4 is 7% taking into account some other risk factors and this highlights how relatively important
- 943 potentially modifiable risk factors are in dementia. ^{2,171}
- 944 For some risk factors, the pattern of risk and the individual's other health, both physical and mental
- 945 may be especially important. Currently, the evidence suggests a Mediterranean or Scandinavian diet
- 946 may have value in preventing cognitive decline in people with intact cognition, particularly as one
- 947 component of a healthy lifestyle, although it is unclear how long the exposure has to be or during
- 948 which ages. We do not recommend taking additional vitamins, oils or mixed dietary supplements as
- 949 a means of preventing dementia as extensive testing in trials has not led to signals of beneficial950 effects.
- 951 There are few data from RCTs on interventions to prevent cognitive decline, all-cause dementia or
- 952 AD. For some key life influences, only observational data, particularly related to natural experiments
- 953 such as changing the statutory education age, are possible. These should be investigated
- 954 systematically wherever possible. Others can theoretically be investigated but the long follow-up
- 955 required for midlife risk and protective factors and non-random attrition in longer studies are
- 956 challenging. Using intermediate endpoints, such as cognition, and dementia onset in research
- 957 remains uncertain as there are no intermediate markers that have such a close relationship with
- 958 dementia outcomes that it's possible to predict with certainty for any given individual, age and sex.
- 959 Overall, the evidence for treating hypertension is strongest and high blood pressure throughout mid-
- 960 life increases the risk of dementia even without stroke.
- 961 While there is a need for more evidence, recommendations should not await this, as there are clear
- 962 indications of ways to reduce the chances of developing dementia without causing harm that will963 also lead to other health and wellbeing benefits.
- 964 Our recommended strategies for dementia risk reduction include both population-wide and targeted965 interventions
- 966 Population wide:
- 967 Prioritise childhood education for all, worldwide. • Implement social public health policies that reduce hypertension risk in the whole 968 • 969 population. 970 Develop policies that encourage social, cognitive and physical activity across the lifecourse 971 for all but there is no evidence for specific activities being protective. 972 Scrutinise the risks for hearing loss throughout the lifecourse, in order to reduce the risk of • 973 exposure to this risk factor in later life.

974	 Reduce the risk of serious brain trauma in relevant settings, including occupational and 	
975	transport.	
976	 National and international policies to reduce population exposure to air pollution. 	
977	Continue to strengthen national and international efforts to reduce exposure to smoking,	
978	both for children and adults to reduce uptake and encourage cessation.	
		Page 32
979	Targeted on individuals	
980	• Treat hypertension and aim for SBP <130mmHg in mid-life.	
981	• Use hearing aids for hearing loss. We need to help people wear them as many find them	
982	unacceptable, too difficult to use or ineffective.	
983	 Drinking 21 units (14 drinks) /week or more is a risk factor for dementia. 	
984	 Prevent head trauma where an individual is at high risk. 	
985	Stopping smoking is beneficial regardless of age.	

- Reduce obesity and the linked condition of diabetes by healthy food availability and an
 environment to increase movement.
- Sustained mid-life, and possibly late-life physical activity protects from dementia.

Although we have more to learn about effectiveness, avoiding or delaying even a proportion ofpotentially modifiable dementias should be a national priority for all.

991 Interventions and care in dementia

- 992 Not all dementia will be preventable and below we present the latest evidence about intervention
- and care for dementia. To date there has been an emphasis on specific subtypes of dementia. Most
- notably over the last decades into Alzheimer's Disease, which has been conceptualised in a variety of
- 995 changing diagnostic criteria over the years, for example, DSM 1V and DSM V. ^{172,173}. This implies early
- 996 pre-clinical detection of the disease process before it becomes dementia, and to this end there has
- been an intense effort to detect biomarkers that predict clinical outcomes. Biomarkers need to show
- reliability and validity, and in the area of this Lancet Commission they also need to be very closely
- and clearly related to clinical syndrome outcomes in the way that, for example, HPV now is for
- 1000 cervical cancer, and hypertension has been for stroke.

1001 Biomarkers and detection of AD

1002 Markers of neurodegeneration linked to clinical dementia include brain volume loss, including

- 1003 hippocampal volume loss and entorhinal cortex and medial temporal cortical thinning seen in
- 1004 structural imaging. The most studied molecular markers are in AD and are amyloid and tau, which
- 1005 Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) detect clinically. The prevalence of
- 1006 particular pathologies at different ages is important in interpretation of such studies. So, for
- 1007 example, population derived studies show there are increases in plaques in the population from less
- 1008 than 3% at age 50 to 59 to around 40% at age 80 to 89. ¹⁷⁴

1009 Amyloid imaging

- 1010 Amyloid imaging detects amyloid in the brain with high sensitivity and specificity in both cognitively
- 1011 normal and people with AD when compared to either neuropathology or clinical diagnosis
- 1012 distinguishing AD from other neurodegenerative conditions. ¹⁷⁵ It is not a diagnostic test for
- 1013 dementia but for whether there is amyloid in the brain. A US study of randomly selected older
- 1014 people from the community recruited 1671 people (mean age of 71 years).¹⁷⁴ The prevalence of

- 1015 PET detected amyloid positivity increased from 2.7% (95% CI 0.5-4.9) of people without cognitive
- 1016 impairment aged 50 to 59 years to 41.3% (95% CI 33.4-49.2%) aged 80 to 89 years. ¹⁷⁴ In 10-year
- 1017 follow up PET positivity was associated with a higher probability of developing AD dementia
- compared to those who were amyloid negative; HR 2.6 (95% Cl1.4 -4.9). It was not very different for 1018
- 1019 participants with aMCI who were amyloid positive vs amyloid negative, HR 1.9 (95% CI 0.9- 3.9) for 1020

and 1.6 (95% CI 0.8 -3.4) respectively.

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1021 Similarly, an 8 year follow-up study of 599 volunteers (average age 70) in Australia found that 1022 cognitively normal (CN) PET amyloid positive people had an elevated risk of developing AD compared to amyloid negative (17.7% vs 8.1%, OR: 2.4; 95% Cl 1.5- 4.0). ¹⁷⁶ Over 80% of the 266 1023 1024 who were PET amyloid positive did not go onto develop within eight years, showing positive status 1025 does not predict impairment for most people in which might be a useful prognostic window. Follow-1026 up at 5-years of CN or aMCI amyloid positive participants vs amyloid negative found the same pattern of increased risk (OR 2.6; 95% CI 1.4- 4.9). Risk also increases with older age (HR=1.05, 95% 1027 1028 CI 0.55-2.0/year), and APOEɛ4 status (HR=2.6, 95%CI 1.4-5.0).¹⁷⁶

- 1029 Most people who are amyloid positive with no other markers have not developed AD dementia
- 1030 during their lifetime. A model of lifetime risks of people who are amyloid positive without any other
- 1031 biomarkers finds it to be 8.4% for a 90 year-old woman who is cognitively normal at baseline, 23.5%
- for a 75 year old and 29.3% for a 65 year old.¹⁷⁷ The 10-year risk is considerably less, so a 65-year-1032
- old woman with only amyloid biomarkers but who is cognitively normal and has no 1033
- 1034 neurodegeneration has a 10-year AD risk of 2.5% and a man 2.3%, but the risk is somewhat higher
- with accompanying neurodegeneration (Table 2).¹⁷⁷ 1035
- 1036 Overall, the knowledge of PET measured amyloid and tau status and MRI derived cortical thickness
- 1037 in a general population derived sample, only adds a small improvement for predicting memory
- 1038 decline over a model with clinical and genetic variables, which may not be clinically important.¹⁷⁸

Age	Normal state 1	A state 2	N state 3	A & N state 4	MCI & A & N state 5	MCI & N state 6
60	0.2 (0.06–0.8)	1.3 (0.6–2.5)	3.6 (1.1–14.2)	7.1 (4.5–10.9)	93.5 (91.1–95.0)	57.2 (48.2–67.9)
65	0.5 (0.14–1.8)	2.5 (1.2-4.9)	4.3 (1.4–15.0)	10.7 (6.8–16.2)	91.7 (89.2–93.5)	55.4 (46.6–65.8)
70	1.1 (0.34–3.5)	4.7 (2.4–8.7)	5.5 (2.0–16.6)	15.5 (10.0–22.8)	88.6 (85.8–90.6)	52.2 (43.8–62.4)
75	2.2 (0.74–6.5)	7.8 (4.1–14.0)	7.3 (2.9–19.0)	20.8 (13.7–29.7)	83.8 (80.7-86.2)	47.4 (39.6–57.0)
80	3.7 (1.3–9.8)	11.1 (6.0–18.7)	9.3 (3.9–20.9)	24.4 (16.4–33.8)	75.8 (72.2–78.7)	40.0 (33.1–48.6)
85	4.7 (1.8–11.0)	11.5 (6.5–18.5)	9.7 (4.3–19.3)	23.1 (15.8–31.2)	63.7 (59.6–67.2)	30.0 (24.5–37.2)
90	3.8 (1.5-8.2)	8.2 (4.7–12.9)	7.1 (3.3–13.3)	16.8 (11.5–22.6)	46.7 (42.7–50.2)	19.1 (15.3–24.3)

1039

Table 2: Ten-year risks %; (95% Confidence intervals) by age of developing Alzheimer's disease dementia for females based on amyloidosis (A) by itself and in the presence of 1040 1041 neurodegeneration (N), and mild cognitive impairment (MCI) with permission 1042

Using amyloid PET with patients with cognitive impairment of uncertain causes, results in changes to 1043 1044 the clinical diagnosis of AD¹⁷⁹ and sometimes to medication prescription. We do not know whether

1045 PET use improves patient care or decreases care costs. Many people have a mixed cause of 1046 dementia and a positive result does not indicate only AD.

1047 Fluid biomarkers

1048 PET imaging is very costly (\$3000 in US) and although used in some clinical settings remains the topic 1049 of research to understand its usefulness in broader populations. Fluid biomarkers, i.e. blood and 1050 cerebrospinal fluid tests, have become a more practical focus of interest since it has become 1051 possible to measure specific proteins linked to the proteins associated with the neuropathologies of Alzheimer's Disease.¹⁸⁰ A composite blood biomarker for amyloid tested in a discovery dataset and 1052 1053 then a validation cohort of participants aged 60 to 90 for amyloid burden (areas under the receiver 1054 operating characteristic curves (AUCs) 96.7% for discovery and 94.1% for validation who were 1055 already taking part in studies in Japan or Australia. It had sensitivity and specificity above 80% against amyloid PET measurement ¹⁸⁰ and correlated with CSF levels of Aβ1–42. These results are 1056 similar to other amyloid blood biomarkers ^{181,182} and harmonization to a common reference standard 1057 1058 is now vital. Whilst CSF A_{β1-42}/1-40 ratio and amyloid PET are now considered interchangeable, ¹⁸³ 1059 CSF tau biomarkers have only correlated weakly with brain tau as currently measured by radioligands. ¹⁸⁴ Neurofilament light (NfL) protein is being measured in many cohorts. It is, however, 1060 non-specific and people with Huntington's disease, multiple sclerosis, MCI and AD may have raised 1061

1062 blood NfL, as it is a marker of neurodegeneration.¹⁸⁵⁻¹⁸⁷

1063 Key points and conclusions

1064 To be useful in clinical practice biomarkers must be very well understood in the populations to which 1065 they are going to be applied, including the effects of age and sex on results. There is now reasonable 1066 evidence that PET or fluid measured amyloid and tau indicate increased risk for development of 1067 cognitive impairment in older adults but at the individual level prognostication is not possible as 1068 most cognitively normal people with these markers do not develop dementia within a clinically 1069 relevant timeframe. Negative amyloid results can be useful for ruling out current Alzheimer's 1070 pathology in people with cognitive impairment when the cause is uncertain and show an individual is 1071 unlikely to develop AD during the next few years. High NfL levels indicate a neurodegenerative 1072 process but not its cause. The value of biomarkers, in terms of diagnostic value, has not been 1073 properly addressed in different representative populations and particularly not in LMICs. The 1074 potential advantages of blood biomarkers are their low cost and their wider acceptability and 1075 applicability in many settings. In many areas of medicine more reliable diagnostic tests have

- 1076 improved research including epidemiological and public health research and trials to help
- 1077 distinguish cause from syndrome (TB from a fever) or assess risk factor and disease
- 1078 (hypercholesterolaemia and ischaemic heart disease). Those developed for the underlying biology
- 1079 of the dementia syndrome must be subject to the same assessment of value.

1080 Principles of intervention in people with dementia

1081 In the first Commission, we discussed the reasons that where concerns are raised by patient or

- 1082 family, an accurate diagnosis is helpful. It provides a gateway to intervention and services where
- 1083 available, for planning for possible futures, and support for family, as well as to facilitate research.
- 1084 Unfortunately, these services are not always available. National plans for dementia support timely
- 1085 diagnosis and support to individuals and their families.

- We did not address screening of those not presenting concerns but rigorous systematic reviews by
 the US Task Force on Prevention have found an absence of evidence of benefit and harm. ¹⁸⁸ The
- 1088 first trial globally of screening took place in the US, screening 4005 primary care patients aged 65
- 1089 years or older. It found no clear benefit or harm in terms of quality of life, mood or increasing
- 1090 diagnostic rates. ¹⁸⁹ Other strategies may become more valuable in time such as sensitive awareness
- 1001 of rick factors, when routing records suggest an individual may be in decline. ¹⁹⁰
- 1091 of risk factors, when routine records suggest an individual may be in decline. ¹⁹⁰

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- People with dementia have complex problems with symptoms in many domains. Those providing support and any interventions must consider the person as a whole, as well as their context and their close carers whether family or friends. This needs to balance their medical, cognitive, psychological, environmental, cultural and social needs.² In the context of underprovision of services, this is and will continue to be a challenge. Dementia, as an illness which affects cognition by definition, affects the ability to organise activities; and people with dementia often need help to do what they enjoy; for example, listen to music, or go to gardens and parks. Wellbeing is one of the
- 1099 goals of dementia care.

1100 Interventions once a diagnosis has been made

1101 *Medication*

- Cholinesterase inhibitors have a useful, modest role in improving cognition and ADL in mild-to-1102 1103 moderate AD and memantine can be prescribed in combination or each drug used separately for moderate and severe AD.^{2,191,192} However while available in most countries these are no longer 1104 1105 remunerated in France because as they feel that their benefit is small and they shift clinician's 1106 attention from other interventions; it is unknown whether this will help patients or be detrimental 1107 to them.¹⁹³ There have been no advances in A β therapeutics, with negative results from phase 3 trials of monoclonal antibodies (e.g., solanezumab, crenezumab) and inhibitors of β -secretase 1 1108 1109 (BACE1), a protease involved in the production of A β peptides. ¹⁹⁴ Aducanumab previously 1110 abandoned as futile now has further unpublished results. Three 5HT₆ antagonists and the calcium channel blocker nilvadipine ^{195,196} have also been ineffective. These medications also show 1111 substantial impact during treatments at 'therapeutic' levels on the leakiness of blood vessels. The 1112 1113 long-term impact of such side effects is unknown. There is a continuing focus on anti-tau, anti-
- 1114 amyloid and anti-inflammatory drugs and some argue that pre-symptomatic interventions are
- necessary, especially if targeting Aβ production, but there is no current evidence of efficacy ¹⁹⁷ and
 of worsening target symptoms.¹⁹⁸

1117 Cognitive training in people with dementia (CT)

- A meta-analysis of 12 controlled trials of 389 people with mild dementia, completing ≥4 hours of
 group based computerized cognitive training (CCT), (mean age from 66 to 81 years old, 63.5% female
 participants) found a small, statistically significant beneficial effect on overall cognition, driven by
 two trials of virtual reality or Nintendo Wii (SMD=0.3; 95% CI 0.0-0.5), one with a low and one with a
 high risk of bias.⁵⁵
- A second systematic review, a Cochrane review found 33 trials of CT, only one of which overlapped with the study above, with around 2,000 participants with mild-to-moderate dementia, most with a high or uncertain risk of bias. People completing CT, compared with usual treatment or non-specific activities, had small to moderate effects on overall cognition (SMD 0.4; 95% CI 0.2-0.6) and specific

- 1127 cognitive abilities such as verbal fluency, and improvements lasted for a few months to one year.
- 1128 There was no direct evidence suggesting it was better than cognitive stimulation therapy.

1129 Exercise and physical activity

1130 The Dementia and Physical Activity (DAPA) RCT found moderate-to-high intensity aerobic and

- 1131 strength exercise training did not slow cognitive impairment in people with mild-to-moderate
- 1132 dementia but improved physical fitness. ¹⁹⁹ The US Reducing Disability in Dementia (RDAD) study
- 1133 implemented an at-home multicomponent intervention including exercise education, training to
- 1134 increase pleasant events, and activator-behaviour-consequence problem-solving approach over six
- 1135 weeks by case managers in 255 community dwelling people with dementia aged over 60 and their
- 1136 family carer and were able to follow-up 140 (54.9%). They found increased physical activity; days of
- taking ≥ 30 minutes of exercise; (effect size 0.6; 95% CI 0.4- 0.8; post-treatment and at 13 months
 0.3; 95% CI 0.1-0.5) in a pre/post intervention comparison.

1139 Interventions for neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) of dementia

- 1140 NPS are common and often clustered in people with dementia. They may precede dementia and are
- associated with tau and amyloid neuropathology.²⁰⁰ This suggests that underlying neurobiological
- 1142 mechanisms may underpin neuropsychiatric symptoms. However, there are also likely to be other
- 1143 drivers which relate to the person with dementia's environment, and personal history .
- 1144 Neurodegeneration could lead to increased vulnerability to stressors or triggers. Genetics, cognitive
- reserve, resilience, medical comorbidities and environment may modify these relationships. Needs
- and responses will also be individual and relate to a person's own social, cultural and historical
- 1147 context. First-line assessment and management of NPS should focus on basic health: describe and
- diagnose symptoms, look for causes such as pain (using validated pain assessments may help),
- 1149 illness, discomfort, hunger, loneliness, boredom, lack of intimacy and worry that could cause the
- 1150 behaviours and alleviate these while considering risks of harm.²

Figure 8a: Proportion of patients with a diagnosis for dementia living at home or in a care home prescribed an antipsychotic drug with permission ²⁰¹

- 1153 There is no new evidence of medication effectiveness for these symptoms; risperidone in low doses
- 1154 (0.5mg daily oral usually recommended) and some other antipsychotics are often ineffective and
- 1155 have adverse effects.² Specific initiatives have led to a decrease in antipsychotic prescriptions for



- 1156 people with dementia, although they are often replaced by another psychotropics (figure 8 a, b),
- such as benzodiazepines, antidepressants and mood stabilizers. ²⁰¹ These lack evidence of efficacy
- 1158 for neuropsychiatric symptoms but show clear evidence of possible harm; for example, trazodone
- and benzodiazepines increase fall related injuries.¹⁴¹ It is important to carefully assess major policy
- 1160 changes carefully, within and across countries for unintended consequences (and perhaps
- 1161 unexpected benefits) and their costs.





- Figure 8b: Proportion of patients with a diagnosis of dementia prescribed an anxiolytic, hypnotic,
 or antidepressant with permission
- 1165

1166 Evidence is slowly accumulating for the effectiveness, at least in the short-term, of person-centred psychosocial interventions tailored to individual needs. In Germany, a six-month cluster-RCT of 1167 1168 nurse-delivered supervised dementia care management used a computer-assisted nurse assessment 1169 to determine personalised intervention modules, then a multi-disciplinary team discussion and 1170 agreement with the GP for 634 people (mean age 80) living with dementia at home with a primary carer or alone. ²⁰² The mean MMSE was 23, only 38% had a formal diagnosis of dementia; the 1171 1172 majority of participants had mild dementia but some had moderate and some severe. The 1173 intervention consisted of psychosocial management of treatment and care, medication management 1174 and carer support and education and discussion with a psychiatrist or neurologist. It was associated 1175 with better outcomes for neuropsychiatric symptoms compared to care as usual (CAU), but because 1176 of deterioration in CAU (Neuropsychiatric Inventory, NPI -7.5; 95% CI -11.1- -3.8; CAU NPI; increased 1177 from 7.2 to 15.2; intervention group NPI increased from 7.6 to 8.2). This between-group reduction in 1178 neuropsychiatric symptoms was greater than that expected, extrapolating from other study results, 1179 with antipsychotic medication. Effects on quality of life were only apparent for those people living 1180 with a carer.

1181 An eight-session home-based Tailored Activity Program (TAP-VA) RCT, tailored to the person with

- dementia living at home and a family member versus eight telephone-based education sessions,
- 1183 recruited 160 participants with 64% follow-up, imputing values for the rest. ²⁰³ Non-completers
- 1184 having more severe neuropsychiatric symptoms. It reported a large reduction in overall
- 1185 neuropsychiatric symptoms immediately after the intervention, which were better in the TAP-VA

- group on the neuropsychiatric inventory (mean difference in score = 24.3; 95%Cl 3.1- 45.6); and in
- 1187 dependence and pain but this was not sustained four months later.

1188 **Depression**

- 1189 Since the last Commission two new systematic reviews of antidepressants to treat depression in
- 1190 dementia reported moderate quality evidencethat antidepressant treatment for people with
- dementia does not lead to better control of symptomatology compared with placebo. ^{204,205}

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1192 Agitation

- 1193 Agitation is distressing for people with dementia and those around the patient, and contributes
- significantly to the overall costs increasing as the level of agitation increases. ²⁰⁶ There is an
- increasing body of evidence on this important behaviour, mostly focused on care homes settings.
- 1196 These findings are important as these represent the most affected populations but as many people
- 1197 with dementia reside at home this still leaves a major gap in knowledge.
- 1198 Care home residents with agitation often find sitting still difficult and therefore may not be included
- 1199 in activities. ^{207,208} Two new cluster RCTs of professionals delivering multicomponent,
- 1200 interdisciplinary, interventions in care homes successfully reduced agitation. The WHELD study
- 1201 included participants with or without NPS and provided person-centred care, aiming to improve
- 1202 communication with people with dementia. It implemented social, sensory experiences or other
- activities; educated about antipsychotic review and addressed physical problems, finding lower
- 1204 Cohen Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI) at 9 months (MD -4.3points; 95% CI –7.3, –1.2).²⁰⁹ The
- 1205 TIME study for people with moderate-to-high levels of agitation consisted of a manual-based
- 1206 comprehensive assessment of the resident and structured case conference for the staff and doctor,
- to create a tailored plan, and then implement it. This led to reduced agitation at 8 and 12 weeks; NPI
- 1208 (-1.1 points; 95% CI -0.1- -2.1; and -1.6; 95% CI -0.6- 2.7) and CMAI (-4.7 points; 95% CI -0.6- -8.8;
- 1209 and- 5.9; 95% CI -1.7- -10.1). ²¹⁰ These effects sizes are similar to those seen for medications, but
- 1210 without harmful side effects.^{211 2} A further RCT of a six-session intervention with staff in groups,
- 1211 teaching staff to understand agitation as related to medical, psychological or social unmet needs and
- implement strategies to meet these needs, using the DICE approach²¹² (Describe, Investigate, Create,
- 1213 Evaluate) to recognise and respond to resident's unmet needs of; pleasant events and
- 1214 communication strategies. The intervention did not reduce agitation symptoms, although it was
- 1215 cost-effective, improving quality of life. ²¹³ Overall, the current evidence for agitation in care homes
- 1216 favours multi-component interventions by staff and not drug interventions. This still leaves a major
- 1217 gap in knowledge about those living at home who comprise the majority of those with dementia.

1218 Psychotic symptoms in dementia

- 1219 People with dementia may be wrongly thought to have delusions when they misremember, and new
- 1220 psychotic symptoms are often due to delirium, so thorough assessment of symptoms is essential.²
- 1221 Management of psychosis in dementia should start with non-pharmacological interventions;
- 1222 however, evidence for their effectiveness for psychosis in dementia is weaker than for agitation. ²¹⁴
- 1223 Antipsychotics for psychosis in dementia should be prescribed in as low a dose and for the shortest
- duration possible.² However, a Cochrane review of antipsychotics withdrawal found two trials with
- 1225 participants who had responded to antipsychotic treatment. These reported that stopping
- 1226 antipsychotics was associated with symptomatic relapse²¹⁵ suggesting the need for caution in any
- 1227 medication withdrawal in this group. There was low-quality evidence that, in general,

- discontinuation may make little or no difference to overall NPS, adverse events, quality of life or
- 1229 cognitive function.²¹⁶

1230 Apathy

- 1231 Apathy may be conceptualised as the opposite of engagement, comprising reduced interest,
- 1232 initiative and activity. Like people without dementia, those with dementia engage more in preferred
- activities, but require additional support to do so. ²¹⁷ Another study in care homes observed
- 1234 engagement increased during activities in those who attended the groups. ²¹⁸ A Cochrane review of
- 1235 the few people who had been in drug RCTs of methylphenidate versus placebo for apathy in
- 1236 dementia found small improvements on the apathy evaluation scale (MD -5.0; 95% CI -9.6 -0.4, n =
- 1237 145, 3 studies, low-quality evidence) but not on the NPI apathy subscale, MD -0.1; 95% CI -3.9- 3.7, n
- 1238 = 85, 2 studies). ²¹⁹

1239 Sleep

- 1240 There is no evidence that medication for sleep in dementia is effective ²²⁰ and considerable evidence
- 1241 for harm, for example, earlier death, increased hospitalisation and falls. ^{136,141} Testing of non-
- 1242 pharmacological interventions is ongoing. ²²¹

1243 Carers

- 1244 Carer distress related to neuropsychiatric symptoms beyond dementia symptoms themselves was
- associated in one study with increased use and costs of health services, ²²² highlighting the need for
- 1246 effectively identifying, educating, and supporting distressed carers. An RCT reporting six-year follow-
- 1247 up after the 8 session START intervention found continuing effectiveness for carer depressive
- symptoms (adjusted mean difference (MD) -2.00; 95% CI -3.3, -0.6, n=243) and risk of case-level
- 1249 depression, with patient-related cost being approximately three times lower than those who did not
- receive the intervention (median £5,759 versus £16,964 in the final year; p =0.07). Another US study
- 1251 followed 663 people 51% with mild, 31% moderate and 18% severe dementia (any type), mean age
- 1252 73, 55% with female family carer. Depression rather than symptoms of people with dementia
- 1253 predicted emergency department use for people with dementia, with a 73% (95%Cl 17.3-23.0)
- 1254 increase when carers were depressed.

1255 Functioning

- 1256 A UK RCT of 14 sessions of cognitive rehabilitation focused on individual goal attainment with
- 1257 therapy delivered at home by an occupational therapist or nurse to 475 participants with mild-to-
- 1258 moderate dementia (MMSE ≥18 for inclusion; mean 24) and a family carer. Individuals had two-to-
- 1259 three goals; the most common was engaging in activities (21% of goals). The intervention group
- 1260 reported increased goal attainment over 3 and 9 months compared to usual treatment (effect size
- 1261 0.8; 95% CI 0.6 -1at both 3 and 9 months).²²³ The treatment did not improve participants' quality of
- 1262 life, mood, self-efficacy, cognition, carer stress, health status and was not cost-effective. A
- 1263 systematic review of RCTs without meta-analysis for overall effect size, concluded that all
- 1264 interventions which had improved functioning in people living with dementia in the community have
- 1265 bene individual rather than group interventions, in-home physiotherapist delivered tailored exercise
- 1266 (2 studies, larger one positive, 140 people with AD, smaller study negative, 35 people), individualised
- 1267 cognitive rehabilitation (mild or moderate dementia; 2 studies; 257 CR intervention groups and 255
- 1268 controls), and in-home activities-focused occupational therapy (people with mild to moderate

dementia, 3 studies, 201 intervention,191 controls) reduced functional decline compared to controls
 but group-exercise and reminiscence therapies were ineffective.²²⁴

1271 People with dementia have other illnesses

- 1272 Multimorbidity is a huge challenge in dementia, not only because people with dementia have
- 1273 increased rates of other diseases, but also because they often find it particularly difficult to organise
- 1274 care. People with dementia may forget to tell their family or health professionals of symptoms,
- 1275 struggle to understand or follow agreed plans, and are more likely to forget to drink and eat,
- 1276 increasing falling and infection rates. ²²⁵ People with dementia consult primary care less often than
- 1277 those without dementia, ²²⁶ dental visits decline, ²²⁷ and family members, if involved, often feel they
- 1278 lack knowledge to assist. ²²⁸ Healthcare professionals need education to be more comfortable,
- 1279 understanding and positive in communicating with people with dementia.²²⁹
- 1280 Around 70-80% of people diagnosed with dementia in primary care have at least two other chronic
- 1281 illnesses.^{230,231} People who are physically more frail are more likely to have dementia, but the
- 1282 relationship between pathology and symptoms in these people is comparatively weak suggesting
- 1283 that dementia may be from other mechanisms.²² Compared to the general older population, people
- 1284 with dementia have increased rates of cerebrovascular disease, ²³¹⁻²³⁴ stroke, ²³⁵ Parkinson's disease,
- 1285 ^{231,233} diabetes, ^{233 235} skin ulcers, anxiety and depression, ^{231,233} pneumonia, incontinence and
- 1286 electrolyte disturbance.²³³ Multi-morbidity in people with dementia is associated with faster
- 1287 functional decline ²³⁶ and worse quality of life for people with dementia and their family carers. ²³⁷

1288 Hospital admissions

- 1289 Hospitalisation in people with dementia is associated with adverse, unintended consequences,
- 1290 including distress, functional and cognitive decline, and high economic costs. ²³⁸⁻²⁴⁰ People with
- dementia have 1.4 to 4 times more hospital admissions than others with similar illnesses. ^{239,241-243}



1292

Figure 9 Systematic review and meta-analysis of hospitalisation rates of people with dementia compared to those without dementia controlled for age and sex (with permission)²⁴⁴

A systematic review and meta-analysis including 34 studies of 277,432 people with dementia, found
that in the six studies which compared the two groups, people with dementia had increased
hospitalisation compared to those without, after adjusting for age, sex, and physical comorbidity (RR
1.4; 95% CI 1.2 -1.7; see figure 9). ²⁴⁴ Hospitalisation rates in people with dementia ranged from 0.37
to 1.26/person-year in high-quality studies. Admissions are often for conditions that might be

- 1300 manageable in the community (potentially preventable hospitalisations). ²⁴¹ People with dementia
- experience longer and more frequent admissions and readmissions; healthcare expenditure for
 people with moderate-severe dementia is around double that of people without dementia. ^{242,245,246}
- 1303 Early detection and management of physical ill health in people with dementia, particularly of pain,
- 1304 falls, diabetes, incontinence and sensory impairment, is important. ^{191,247,248} However, no
- 1305 intervention has successfully reduced hospital admissions of community-dwelling people with
- 1306 dementia, ²⁴⁹ although education, exercise, rehabilitation and telemedicine have reduced admissions
- 1307 for older people without dementia. ²⁵⁰
- 1308 High quality care for people with dementia takes longer than caring for others with the same
- 1309 condition. ²⁵¹ Recognition of dementia in hospital inpatients is necessary for optimum care, ²⁵² but
- 1310 dementia is often undetected or unrecorded. ²⁵³ In the UK however, detection rates have increased
- 1311 over the past 10 years. ²⁵⁴

1312 Physical illness, delirium and dementia

- 1313 Dementia and delirium frequently occur together. In one hospital inpatients' survey nearly 35% of
- 1314 those aged >80 experienced delirium; those with prior cognitive impairment had 15 times the risk of

- developing delirium than those without (OR 15.3; 95% CI 5.2- 45.4).²⁵⁵ People with delirium are 12 1315
- times more likely to be diagnosed with dementia in the future than others, either because of pre-1316
- 1317 existing undiagnosed dementia, or because delirium has neurotoxic effects and so precipitates
- dementia.²⁵⁶ People with similar neuropathology show faster cognitive decline if they develop 1318
- delirium than if they do not.²⁵⁷ Additionally, older people without dementia declined cognitively 1319
- more than twice as fast after an emergency hospital admission for any cause, compared to those not Page | 42 1320
- 1321 admitted, suggesting any severe illness is associated with cognitive decline.²⁵⁸ Risk factors for 1322 delirium in dementia include sensory impairment, pain, polypharmacy, dehydration, intercurrent
- 1323 illnesses such as urinary tract infections or faecal impaction, and an unfamiliar or changing
- 1324 environment.²⁵⁹ Delirium in older people should prompt consideration of underlying dementia
- 1325 Most research on delirium prevention has been in people without dementia. It suggests targeting
- 1326 hydration, stopping medication predisposing to delirium, monitoring the depth of anaesthesia and
- 1327 sleep promotion. However, there is no evidence for medication efficacy, including cholinesterase
- inhibitors, antipsychotic medication or melatonin.²⁶⁰⁻²⁶² The Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) 1328 1329
- intervention to prevent delirium in those admitted to hospital reduced delirium incidence and 1330 includes people who are cognitively impaired. It is a multidisciplinary treatment consisting of daily
- 1331 visits, orientation, therapeutic activities, sleep enhancement, early mobilisation, vision and hearing
- 1332 adaptation, fluid repletion, infection prevention and management of constipation, pain, and
- hypoxia; and feeding assistance.²⁶³ 1333
- 1334 A network meta-analysis of drugs for prevention and treatment of delirium did not include studies of
- 1335 people with dementia, so we cannot recommend drugs for people with dementia and delirium as
 - 1336 this research may be inapplicable to people with dementia.²⁶⁴
 - 1337 There is little high quality research on managing delirium in dementia. One RCT compared a
 - 1338 specialist medical and mental health unit to usual care for 600 "confused" people aged >65 years,
 - 1339 acutely admitted to hospital and found no difference in the primary outcome of days spent at home
 - or in hospital, but increased family satisfaction.²⁶⁵ A further RCT of cognitively stimulating activities 1340
 - for people with delirium in dementia did not improve the delirium. ²⁶⁶There is currently no definitive 1341
 - 1342 evidence that any medication improves delirium in people with dementia: cholinesterase inhibitors,
 - 1343 antipsychotics, and sedating benzodiazepines are ineffective and antipsychotics and
 - benzodiazepines are associated with mortality and morbidity.^{238,261,267-270} Given the risk of dementia 1344
 - 1345 in people who develop delirium, its prevention, and possibly advances in its management, may offer
 - a means for dementia prevention. 271 1346

1347 Link between very old age, frailty and dementia

1348 The fastest growing demographic group in most advanced countries are people 90 and over. In one 1349 well characterized post-mortem cohort of the oldest old (n=1079; mean age 90) dying with dementia, found that neuropathological features of Alzheimer disease account for about half of the 1350 cognitive decline seen and people diagnosed with AD had mixed causes of dementia. ²⁷² Although AD 1351 neuropathology was the commonest cause of dementia, Alzheimer changes rarely occurred on their 1352 own, so only 9% of people with dementia had pure AD pathology ²⁷³ People who have Alzheimer 1353 pathology without developing dementia tend to have fewer age-related health deficits than those 1354 who develop it with even low levels of plaques and tangles. ²⁷⁴ A moderation analysis showed 1355 1356 that the relationship between Alzheimer's disease pathology and dementia status differed 1357 according to level of frailty, (adjusted for age, sex, and education), with increasing frailty

- 1358 weakening the relationship between AD pathology and dementia (figure 10). ²² As with delirium,
- some of this additional health risk may be modifiable. This approach suggests a new type of therapy
- 1360 focus on specific age-related processes that underpin many diseases of late life.



1361

Figure 10 (with permission) Moderation analyses of the relationship between Alzheimer's
 disease pathology and clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's dementia (adjusted for age, sex,
 and education). As frailty increased, the odds of a neuropathological diagnosis of
 Alzheimer disease corresponding to a clinical diagnosis decreased. ²²

- 1365 Alzheimer disease corresponding to a clinical diagnos
- 1366 End-of-life care in dementia

There are increasing numbers of people dying with dementia but we lack evidence of the best endof-life care. As well as more people with dementia, trends in age-standardised death rates (3.6%) for dementia increased slightly between 1990-2016, with pronounced increases in the US and Japan and decreases in Western-Europe and Central Latin America.⁴ There is more willingness to include dementia on the death certificate, which accounts for some of the rise. The increase may be related to dementia becoming manifest at later ages and increasing physical frailty ²² and be related to a faster decline.

- 1374 Most people with dementia may die while still in the mild-to-moderate stages while only about a
- 1375 quarter of those dying with dementia have severe dementia.^{275,276} The trajectory of dementia is
- 1376 often unpredictable²⁷⁷ and palliative care initiation should reflect need not prognosis.
- 1377 Decision-making about end-of-life is complex and simple rules of thumb, co-designed with staff and
- 1378 carers provided clarity in some small studies.²⁷⁷ One RCT testing decision-aids about families and
- 1379 doctors' goals of care for people with advanced dementia led to increased palliative care content in
- 1380 care plans. ^{278,279} In a 9-month UK prospective study, of 85 care home residents with advanced

- dementia from 14 homes, were likely to be living with distressing symptoms, specifically agitation
 (54%) or pain (61% on movement).²⁷⁷
- 1383 Capacity to make abstract decisions, including about the future, may be lost early in dementia²⁸⁰.
- 1384 Therefore, advance care planning, designed to empower people with dementia and improve quality
- 1385 of dying, might theoretically be something everyone should do before developing dementia.²⁸¹
- 1386 However, people may not be able to predict their future wishes, this may explain why family carer
- 1387 proxies show only low-to-moderate agreement with stated end-of-life treatment preferences of
- 1388 people with dementia.²⁸² Advance care planning may, however, reduce carers' uncertainty in
- 1389 decision-making and improve perceptions of quality of care.²⁸³
- 1390 Partners of people dying with dementia experience poorer mental health than those facing
- 1391 bereavement from other causes. ²⁸⁴ possibly because of long and difficult caring responsibilities. This
- 1392 may be ameliorated through sensitive and timely information, particularly regarding the progression
- 1393 of dementia, ²⁸⁵ individually or through family and staff case-conferencing. ^{286,287}

1394 Conclusions

- 1395 Knowledge about risk factors and potential prevention, detection, and diagnosis of dementia is
- 1396 improving although significant gaps remain.²⁸⁸ In this report, we have specified policy and individual
- 1397 changes to delay the onset of cognitive impairment and dementia and better ways to support and
- 1398 treat people with dementia and their families and improve their quality of life.
- 1399 Interventions, including organisation of the complex physical illness and social needs, to support
- 1400 people affected by dementia can have a huge effect when taken as a whole. Our ambition is for
- 1401 worldwide provision of resources for an adequate level of wellbeing to persons with dementia and
- 1402 their carers with a better evidence base to guide individual care and policy making alike. With good
- 1403 quality care, people can live well with dementia and families can feel supported.

1404 Contributors

- 1405 GL, AS, JH and NM contributed to literature searches and quality assessments for systematic
- reviews; JH and NM performed meta-analyses; GL, NM, JH and AS conceived the new PAF calculation and NM led the statistical analysis. GL, JH, AS, NM. DA, CB, SB. AB, JCM, CC, SC, NF, RH, HK, EL, VO, KR, KR, ES, QS, LS and GS attended the conference to discuss the content.
- ELS, EL, AS, DA, JH, GL wrote first draft of sections of the paper. GL wrote the first draft of the whole
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