

prior research suggesting that cognitive aging effects may be more subtle in real-world contexts.

Categories: Aging

Keyword 1: memory: prospective

Keyword 2: self-report

Keyword 3: aging (normal)

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39 Relationships among Cardiovascular Risk Factors, White Matter Hyperintensities, and Depressive Symptoms in Black and White Older Adults

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Objective: The vascular depression hypothesis posits that there is a relationship between vascular disease and geriatric depressive symptoms. Black Americans are at higher risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) than their White counterparts. However, it is not fully understood whether risk for CVD or potentially related neurovascular changes have a differential relationship in Black and White Americans. We investigated differences in the relationships between white matter hyperintensities, risk for CVD, and depressive symptoms in Black and White older adults.

Participants and Methods: Participants were derived from the National Alzheimer Coordinating Center database. Black (N = 120) and White (N = 120) participants were matched on age, sex, and education. White matter hyperintensity (WMH) and CVD burden data (sum of vascular conditions) on 320 individuals were analyzed (mean age = 75.9; 69.4% female). Age, sex, race, and education were included as covariates in separate regression models in which WMH and CVD burden predicted scores on the 15-item Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS-15). Follow-up stratified analyses were conducted to explore the relationship between WMH and CVD burden on GDS scores in the Black and White samples.

Results: Lower WMH volume and higher CVD burden were associated with higher GDS scores in the total sample. Analyses stratified by race

showed a positive effect of CVD burden on GDS scores only for the Black sample and a trend effect of WMH on GDS scores only for the White sample, with higher WMH volume associated with lower rather than higher GDS scores.

Conclusions: These findings are consistent with previous research showing that WMH and CVD burden are related to depression in older adults. Contrary to expectation, WMH had a negative trend association with GDS scores in the White sample. Findings also suggest that different etiologies may play a role in the clinical presentation of depression in Black and White Americans. Additional research is needed to further explore the relationships among CVD, its neural correlates, and depressive symptoms in diverse samples.

Categories: Aging

Keyword 1: aging disorders

Keyword 2: depression

Keyword 3: cerebrovascular disease

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40 Associations Between Cardiovascular Risk, White Matter, and Medication Predictors on Longitudinal Cognitive Change in the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) Cohort

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Objective: Drawing on the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) Uniform Data Set (UDS), this study aimed to investigate the direct and indirect associations between vascular risk factors/cardiovascular disease (CVD), pharmacological treatment (of CVD), and white matter hyperintensity (WMH) burden on overall cognition and decline trajectories in a cognitively diverse sample of older adults.

Participants and Methods: Participants were 1,049 cognitively diverse older adults drawn from a larger NACC data repository of 22,684 participants whose data was frozen as of December 2019. The subsample included only