

STATINS WORSEN NEUROCOGNITIVE FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA

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The role of statins in prevention and treatment of dementia is still controversial. Even if on one hand, their beneficial effects on the cardiovascular risk factors for dementia may explain a certain positive influence on the prevention of onset of a dementia syndrome, on the other hand the growing data from clinical trials and the most recent meta-analyses on this topic show in most cases that at best statins have no influence on the cognitive performance of the patients with dementia, but also some of these trials and meta-analyses have shown that under treatment with statins there is a worsening of the cognitive function, which improves after statin withdrawal. There are no data to support these observations as a therapeutic class effect or if the effect of statins of the neurocognitive function is different and related to the lipophilicity or hydrophilicity of each type of statin, and their ability to cross the blood-brain barrier.