

Heart Disease Could Be Tied To Dementia For Older Women

(Reuters Health) – Older women with a history of heart trouble were more likely to develop thinking and memory problems than those without heart disease, it was found in a new study.

Women who'd had a heart attack, in particular, were twice as likely to see declines in their thinking and memory skills, researchers found.

Doctors had already suspected such a link existed, lead author Dr. Bernhard Haring told Reuters Health.

“But our study provides new evidence on a broad scale including many different types of heart disease with a specific focus on postmenopausal women,” he said.

Haring is based at the Comprehensive Heart Failure Center at the University of Würzburg in Germany.

He and his colleagues used data from a long-term study of more than 6,000 women ages 65 to 79.

Researchers asked the women if they had ever been diagnosed with any heart problems. They also gave them a test of brain function at the beginning of the study and then once every year.

None of the women had thinking and memory problems at the outset. Close to 900 reported having heart disease.

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