



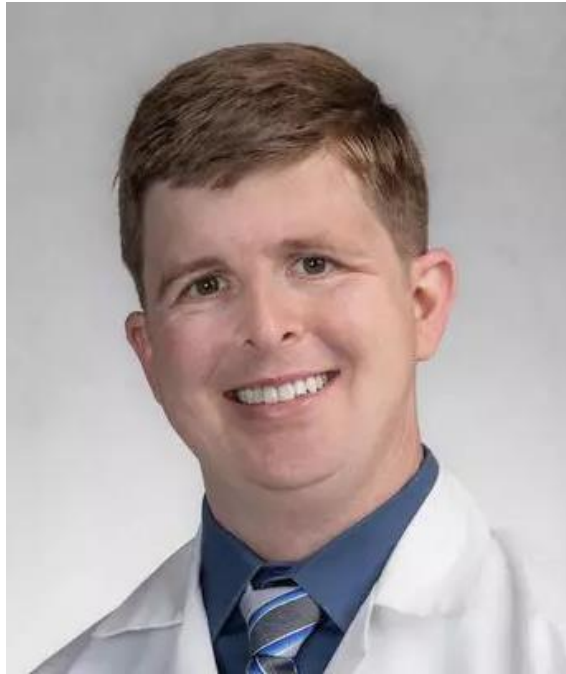
Implementing a Brain Plan: Evidence & Strategies

Presenter: Ian Neel, MD, UC San Diego Health

Moderator: Anna Chodos, MD, MPH



Introduction



Ian Neel, MD

Geriatrician, Medical Director, Geriatric Medicine
Consult Service at Senior Behavioral Health
University of California, San Diego



Anna Chodos, MD, MPH

Primary Care & Geriatrics
Associate Professor, UCSF Department of Medicine
Executive Director, Dementia Care Aware

Financial Disclosures

- All presenters report that they have no financial disclosures.

Dementia Care Aware Program offerings



Warmline:

1-800-933-1789

A provider support and consultation service that connects primary care teams with Dementia Care Aware experts



Trainings:

- Online Trainings
- Live Cognitive Health Assessment (CHA) trainings
- Monthly webinars
- "Dementia Care on Air" Podcasts



Interactive Case Conferences:

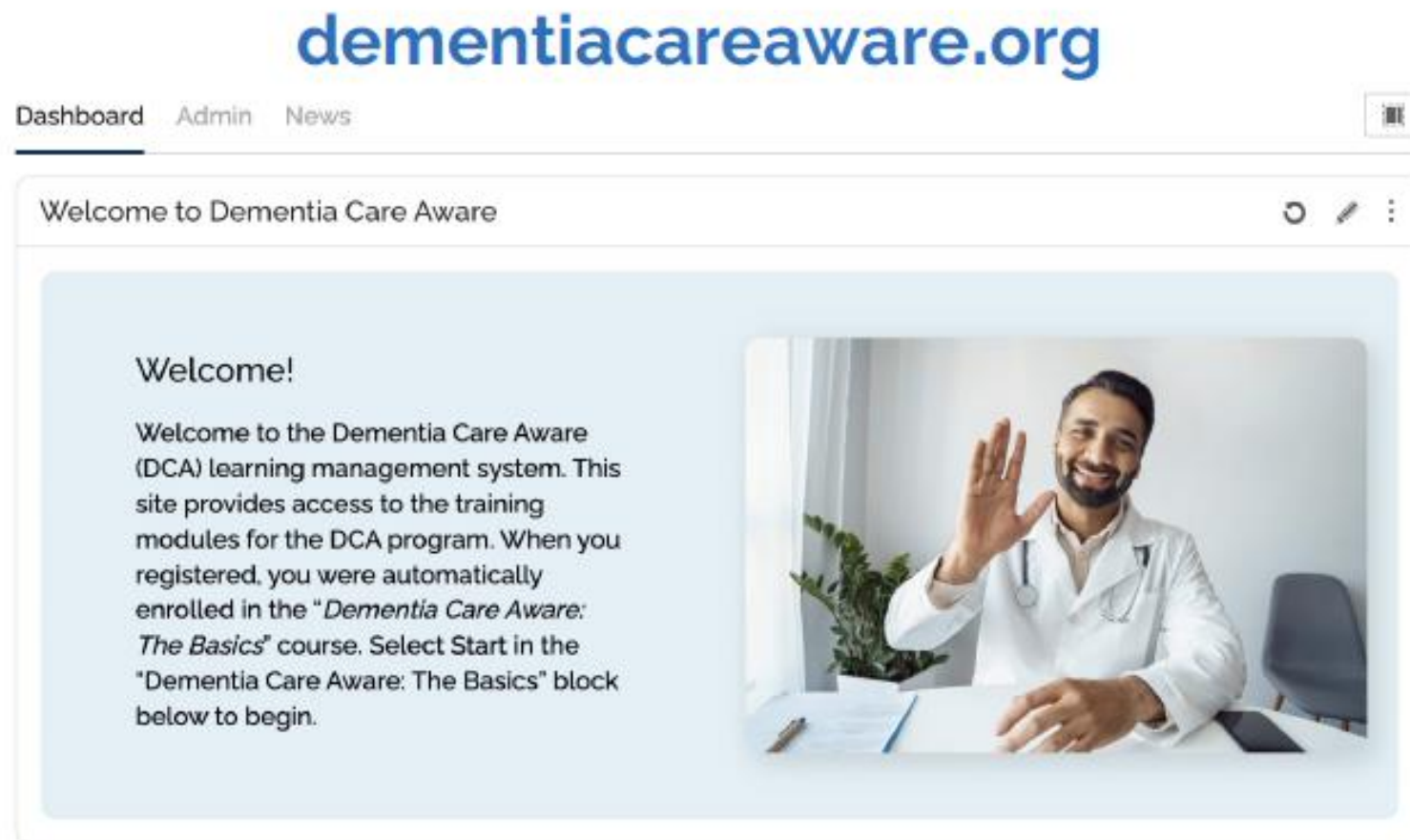
UCLA and UCI ECHO conferences



Practice change support:

- UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program
- Alzheimer's Association Health Systems

Our Training



Screening for Dementia: The CHA

Goal: Screen Patients Over 65 Annually (Who Don't Have a Pre-existing Diagnosis of Dementia)

Part 1



Take a Brief Patient History

Part 2



Use Screening Tools

Part 3



Document Care Partner Information

Allows you to start a brain health plan at the earliest detection of symptoms.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe at least two non-pharmacologic factors that can help delay or slow progression of cognitive decline
2. Identify the most cognitively detrimental medications
3. Formulate an actionable strategy to address a brain health plan during a clinic visit



What is a Brain Health Plan?

- As physicians, we frequently get caught up in dealing with problems pharmacologically.
- Unfortunately, the pharmacologic benefits of drugs for cognitive impairment are minimal.
- While less well studied, evidence suggests non-pharmacologic interventions may have strong benefits for both the prevention of dementia as well as slowing the progression of cognitive impairment.
- A brain health plan is a comprehensive approach to reviewing these interventions with patients.



Overview Of Interventions That Will Be Discussed

- Review and address physical health concerns
- Review medications for polypharmacy and cognitively detrimental side effects
- Increase physical activity
- Increase mental activity
- Increase socialization

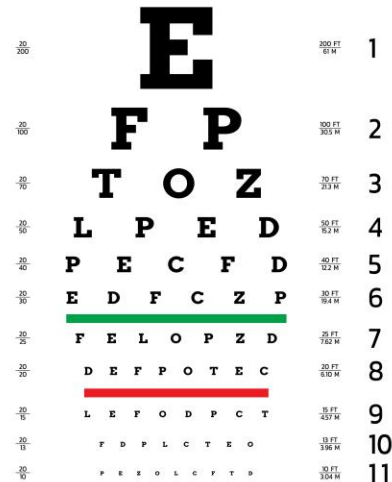




Mind-Body Connection

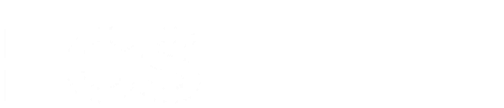
- With increased physical health problems often comes a reduction in functional abilities, which can be correlated with an increased risk of cognitive problems
- Certain diseases, such as strokes, high cholesterol, hypertension, and even dementia, can harm the blood vessels of our brain, making this blood-brain barrier less effective

Vision



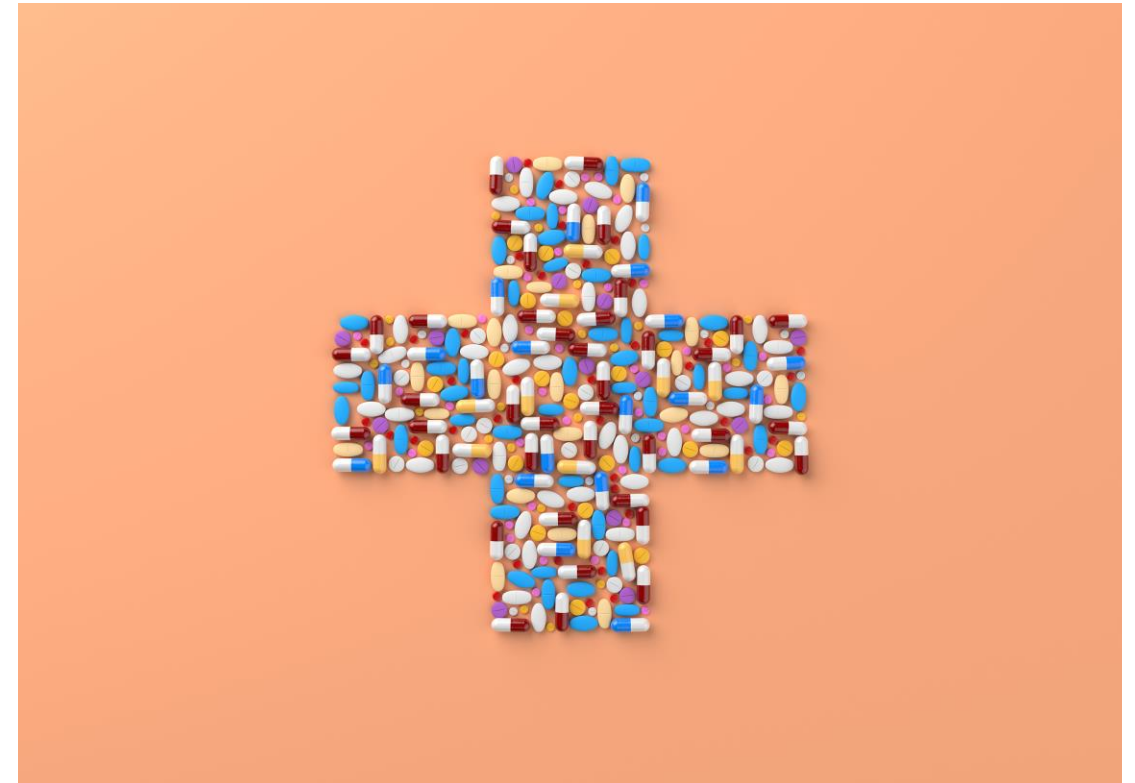
Hearing



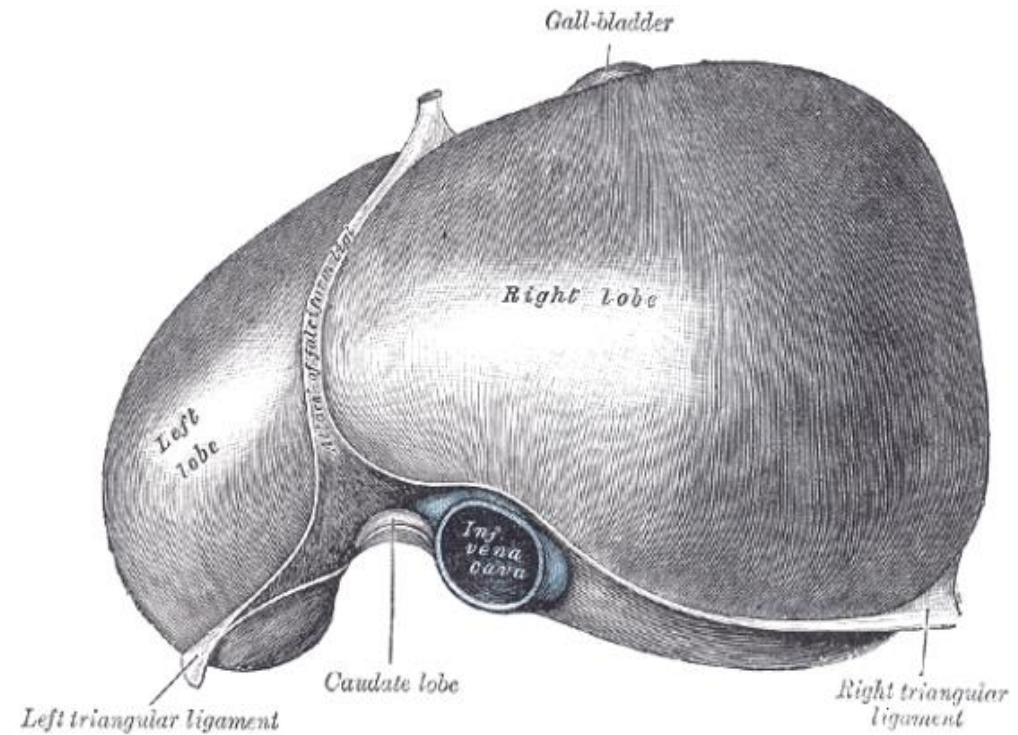
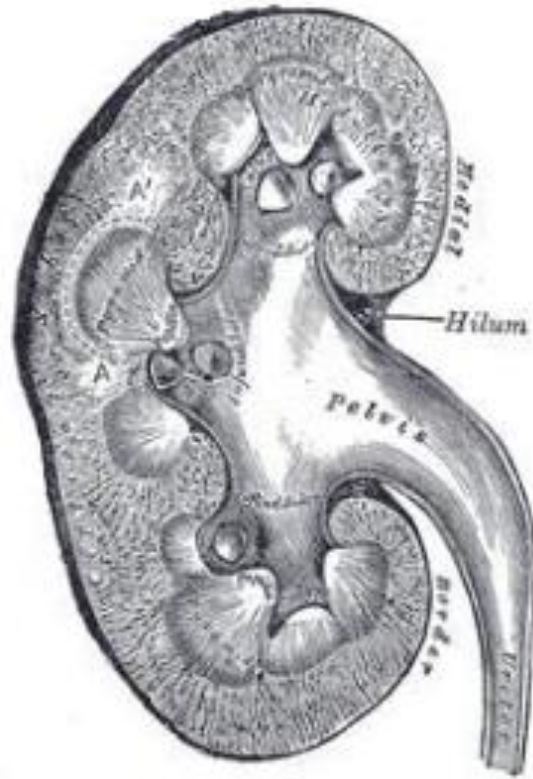


Polypharmacy

- Subcategory of “Suboptimal Prescribing”
 - Polypharmacy
 - Underutilization
 - Inappropriate prescribing
 - Non-senior-friendly agents
 - Drug-drug interactions
 - Adding medications to treat side effects of others
 - Incorrect dose



“I’ve taken this medication for 20 years and never had a problem!”



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A More Streamlined List Of Cognitively Detrimental Medications

Antihistamines



Antacids



Drugs with ACB Score of 1

Generic Name	Brand Name
Alimemazine	Theralen™
Alverine	Spasmonal™
Alprazolam	Xanax™
Aripiprazole	Abilify™
Asenapine	Saphris™
Atenolol	Tenormin™
Bupropion	Wellbutrin™, Zyban™
Captopril	Capoten™
Cetirizine	Zyrtec™
Chlorthalidone	Diuril™, Hygroton™
Cimetidine	Tagamet™
Clidinium	Librax™
Clorazepate	Tranxene™
Codeine	Contin™
Colchicine	Colcris™
Desloratadine	Claritin™
Diazepam	Valium™
Digoxin	Lanoxin™
Dipyridamole	Persantine™
Disopyramide	Norpace™
Fentanyl	Duragesic™, Actiq™
Furosemide	Lasix™
Fluvoxamine	Luvox™
Haloperidol	Haldol™
Hydralazine	Apresoline™
Hydrocortisone	Cortel™, Cortaid™
Iloperidone	Fanapt™
Isosorbide	Isordil™, Ismo™
Levocetirizine	Xyzal™
Loperamide	Immodium™, others
Loratadine	Claritin™
Metoprolol	Lopressor™, Toprol™
Morphine	MS Contin™, Avinza™
Nifedipine	Procardia™, Adalat™
Paliperidone	Invega™
Prednisone	Deltasone™, Sterapred™
Quinidine	Quinaglut™
Ranitidine	Zantac™
Risperidone	Risperdal™
Theophylline	Theodur™, Uniphyll™
Trazodone	Desyrel™
Triamterene	Dyrenium™
Venlafaxine	Effexor™
Warfarin	Coumadin™

Drugs with ACB Score of 2

Generic Name	Brand Name
Amantadine	Symmetrel™
Belladonna	Multiple
Carbamazepine	Tegretol™
Cyclobenzaprine	Flexeril™
Cyproheptadine	Periactin™
Loxapine	Loxitane™
Meperidine	Demerol™
Methotrimeprazine	Levoprome™
Molindone	Moban™
Nefopam	Nefogesic™
Oxcarbazepine	Trileptal™
Pimozide	Orap™

Categorical Scoring:

- Possible anticholinergics include those listed with a score of 1; Definite anticholinergics include those listed with a score of 2 or 3

Numerical Scoring:

- Add the score contributed to each selected medication in each scoring category
- Add the number of possible or definite Anticholinergic medications

Notes:

- Each definite anticholinergic may increase the risk of cognitive impairment by 46% over 6 years.³
- For each on point increase in the ACB total score, a decline in MMSE score of 0.33 points over 2 years has been suggested.⁴
- Additionally, each one point increase in the ACB total score has been correlated with a 26% increase in the risk of death.⁴

Aging Brain Care

www.agingbraincare.org

Drugs with ACB Score of 3

Generic Name	Brand Name
Amitriptyline	Elavil™
Amoxapine	Asenden™
Atropine	Sal-Tropine™
Benzotropine	Cogentin™
Brompheniramine	Dimetapp™
Carbinoxamine	Histex™, Carbihist™
Chlorpheniramine	Chlor-Trimeton™
Chlorpromazine	Thorazine™
Clemastine	Tavist™
Clomipramine	Anafranil™
Clozapine	Clozaril™
Darifenacin	Enablex™
Desipramine	Norpramin™
Dicyclomine	Bentyl™
Dimenhydrinate	Dramamine™, others
Diphenhydramine	Benadryl™, others
Doxepin	Sinequan™
Doxylamine	Unisom™, others
Fesoterodine	Toviaz™
Flavoxate	Urispas™
Hydroxyzine	Atarax™, Vistaril™
Hyoscyamine	Anaspaz™, Levsin™
Imipramine	Tofranil™
Meclizine	Antivert™
Methocarbamol	Robaxin™
Nortriptyline	Pamelor™
Olanzapine	Zyprexa™
Orphenadrine	Norflex™
Oxybutynin	Ditropan™
Paroxetine	Paxil™
Perphenazine	Trilafon™
Promethazine	Phenergan™
Propantheline	Pro-Banthine™
Propiverine	Detrunorm™
Quetiapine	Seroquel™
Scopolamine	Transderm Scop™
Solifenacin	Vesicare™
Thioridazine	Mellaril™
Tolterodine	Detrol™
Trifluoperazine	Stelazine™
Trihexyphenidyl	Artane™
Trimipramine	Surmontil™
Trospium	Sanctura™

Incontinence Meds



Diuretics



Supplements



It is important to remember that supplements and herbal remedies are included in over-the-counter medications.



Supplements are commonly used in older adults despite limited evidence of benefit. One recent study found that 4 out of 5 adults over the age of 50 in America use at least one supplement.

Supplements

Natural remedies, herbal supplements, and vitamins can have many side effects and medication interactions, so they must be used with caution as we age, especially from the perspective of memory.



Hypericum perforatum (St. John's Wort)

Example of Deprescribing Approach

- An 85-year-old male with a history of hyperlipidemia, asthma, and ABPA presented to the clinic for evaluation of memory. Resides in assisted living and receives medication management assistance as he has been having difficulty managing his numerous pills by himself. Also, has significant amnestic symptoms typical of late-onset Alzheimer's, lots of iADL deficiencies, and recently lost his license after crashing his car in a parking lot and failing the DMV written test.



Example (Continued)

Medications per his list he provided to staff:

- Ascorbic acid 500 mg daily
- Aspirin 81 mg daily
- Beta carotene 7500 mcg daily
- Artificial tears PRN
- Cetirizine 10 mg daily
- Coenzyme Q10 300 mg daily
- Cyanocobalamin 1000 mcg daily
- Diclofenac gel 1% four times daily
- Ezetimibe 10 mg daily
- Finasteride 5 mg daily
- Flonase 50 mcg daily
- Fluticasone-umeclidinium-vilanterol 1 puff daily
- Folic acid 800 mcg daily
- Ginkgo Biloba 120 mg daily
- glucosamine-chondroitin-vitamin C-manganese 1500 mg daily
- Hydrocortisone 1% cream BID
- Hydroxyzine 25 mg TID PRN itching
- Ipratropium-albuterol 3 mL nebulizer PRN
- Latanoprostene 0.024% 1 drop in both eyes nightly
- Loteprednol 1 drop in both eyes nightly
- Montelukast 10 mg every evening
- Multivitamin-minerals daily
- Omega-3 fatty acids daily
- Pyridoxine 100 mg daily
- Focus Factor Vitamin daily
- Tamsulosin 0.4 mg daily
- Vitamin E 400 units daily

Example (Continued)

Medications per his list he provided to staff:

- ~~Ascorbic acid 500 mg daily~~ -> no benefit
- ~~Aspirin 81 mg daily~~ -> ASPREE trial results (NEJM 2018; 379:1509-1518), bleed risk
- ~~Beta-carotene 7500 mcg daily~~ -> no benefit
- Artificial tears PRN
- ~~Cetirizine 10 mg daily~~ -> anticholinergic
- ~~Coenzyme Q10 300 mg daily~~ -> no benefit
- ~~Cyanocobalamin 1000 mcg daily~~ -> not B12 deficient (his level was 1213)
- Diclofenac gel 1% four times daily
- ~~Ezetimibe 10 mg daily~~ -> no benefit for primary prevention at his age, risk of myopathy
- Finasteride 5 mg daily
- Flonase 50 mcg daily
- Fluticasone-umeclidinium-vilanterol 1 puff daily
- ~~Folic acid 800 mcg daily~~ -> no benefit
- ~~Ginkgo Biloba 120 mg daily~~ -> no benefit, increases bleeding risk
- ~~glucosamine-chondroitin-vitamin C-manganese 1500 mg daily~~ -> no benefit
- ~~Hydrocortisone 1% cream BID~~ -> no rash, advise using moisturizing cream instead
- ~~Hydroxyzine 25 mg TID PRN itching~~ -> highly anticholinergic
- Ipratropium-albuterol 3 mL nebulizer PRN
- Latanoprostene 0.024% 1 drop in both eyes nightly
- Loteprednol 1 drop in both eyes nightly
- Montelukast 10 mg every evening
- ~~Multivitamin-minerals daily~~ -> no benefit, constipating
- ~~Omega-3 fatty acids daily~~ -> no significant harm but adds to pill burden
- ~~Pyridoxine 100 mg daily~~ -> no benefit
- ~~Focus Factor Vitamin daily~~ -> no benefit, costly, FTC sued them in 2004 for false claims of benefit
- Tamsulosin 0.4 mg daily
- ~~Vitamin E 400 units daily~~ -> no benefit, increases bleeding risk

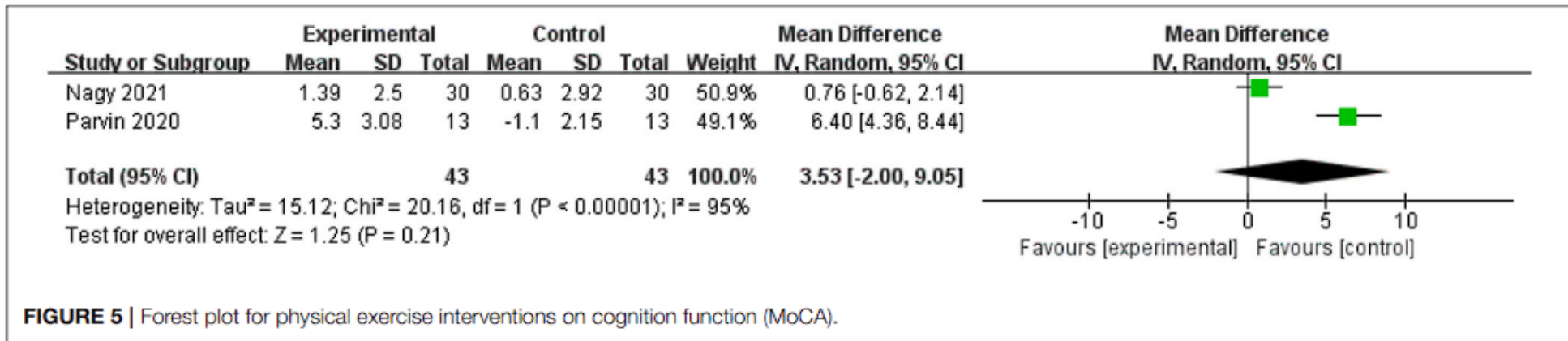
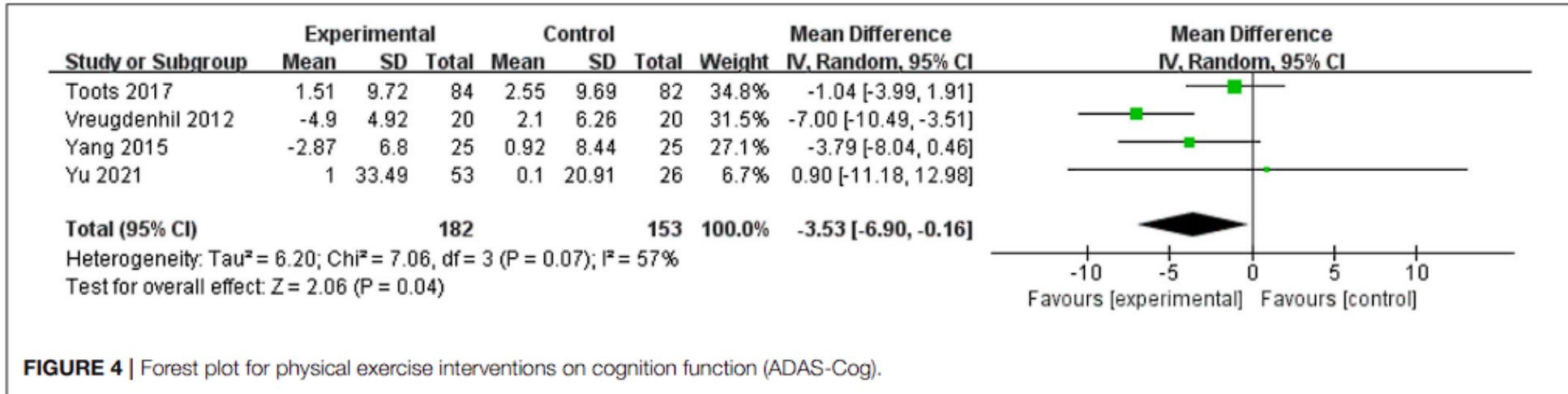
Example (Concluded)

Medications by visit end:

- Artificial tears PRN
- Diclofenac gel 1% four times daily
- Finasteride 5 mg daily
- Flonase 50 mcg daily
- Fluticasone-umeclidinium-vilanterol 1 puff daily
- Ipratropium-albuterol 3 mL nebulizer PRN
- Latanoprostene 0.024% 1 drop in both eyes nightly
- Loteprednol 1 drop in both eyes nightly
- Montelukast 10 mg every evening
- Tamsulosin 0.4 mg daily



Physical Exercise



Aerobic Exercise

- Aerobic exercise is key to maintaining brain and heart health.
- Aerobic exercise recommendations consist of 150 minutes per week of moderate-to-high intensity exercise, such as brisk walking for thirty minutes five times a week.
- In addition to aerobic exercise, it is recommended to add several other modes of exercise to one's regimen, such as muscle strengthening and balance training.



Muscle and Balance Training

- Muscle strengthening is advised to be performed two or more days a week for 20-30 minutes a time. This can consist of weights (resistance training), exercises like crunches or climbing stairs, or pool exercises against water resistance.
- Balance training is recommended to be performed at least once a week, optimally greater than three times a week. The best studied balance training exercises are Tai Chi and yoga.





Mental Exercise

- Certain factors have been associated in the literature with later onset and slower progression of cognitive decline:
 - Higher formal education levels
 - Later time of retirement
 - Higher levels of cognitive activity



Retirement reference: Does postponing retirement affect cognitive function? A counterfactual experiment to disentangle life course risk factors

Cognitive activity reference: Wilson RS, Wang T, Yu L, Grodstein F, Bennett DA, Boyle PA. Cognitive Activity and Onset Age of Incident Alzheimer Disease Dementia. *Neurology*. 2021 Aug 31;97(9):e922-e929.

“Wait, so I can't retire?”

It is unlikely that retirement itself is leading to an increased incidence of cognitive decline, but rather a post-retirement lifestyle.



What counts as mental exercise?

- Anything that gets the mind actively thinking and problem solving
- Commonly used methods:
 - Reminiscence Therapy
 - Cognitive Stimulation Therapy
 - Music Therapy
 - Relaxation Therapy
 - Snoezelen Therapy
 - Creative activities



The more complex the better

- Brain games are unlikely to be of benefit. Frequently see news like this:



The screenshot shows the FTC website with a blue header. The header includes the FTC seal, the text "FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS", and links for "Contact", "Stay Connected", "Privacy Policy", and "FTC en español". A search bar is also present. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "ABOUT THE FTC", "NEWS & EVENTS", "ENFORCEMENT", "POLICY", "TIPS & ADVICE", and "I WOULD LIKE TO...". The main content area displays a breadcrumb trail: "Home » News & Events » Press Releases » Lumosity to Pay \$2 Million to Settle FTC Deceptive Advertising Charges for Its 'Brain Training' Program". The headline reads: "Lumosity to Pay \$2 Million to Settle FTC Deceptive Advertising Charges for Its 'Brain Training' Program". Below the headline is a sub-headline: "Company Claimed Program Would Sharpen Performance in Everyday Life and Protect Against Cognitive Decline". A blue box with white text says "FOR RELEASE". The date "January 5, 2016" is listed. The "TAGS" section includes: "Bureau of Consumer Protection", "Consumer Protection", "Advertising and Marketing", "Health Claims", and "Online Advertising and Marketing". On the right side, there is a blue box with a calendar icon and the text "EVENTS CALENDAR". Below that is a section titled "Related Cases" with a link to "Lumos Labs, Inc. (Lumosity Mobile and Online Cognitive Game)".

Home » News & Events » Press Releases » Lumosity to Pay \$2 Million to Settle FTC Deceptive Advertising Charges for Its "Brain Training" Program

Lumosity to Pay \$2 Million to Settle FTC Deceptive Advertising Charges for Its "Brain Training" Program

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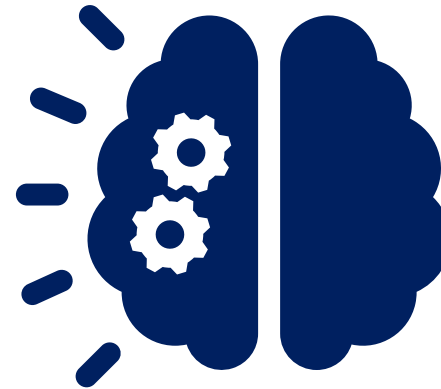
EVENTS CALENDAR

Related Cases

Lumos Labs, Inc. (Lumosity Mobile and Online Cognitive Game)

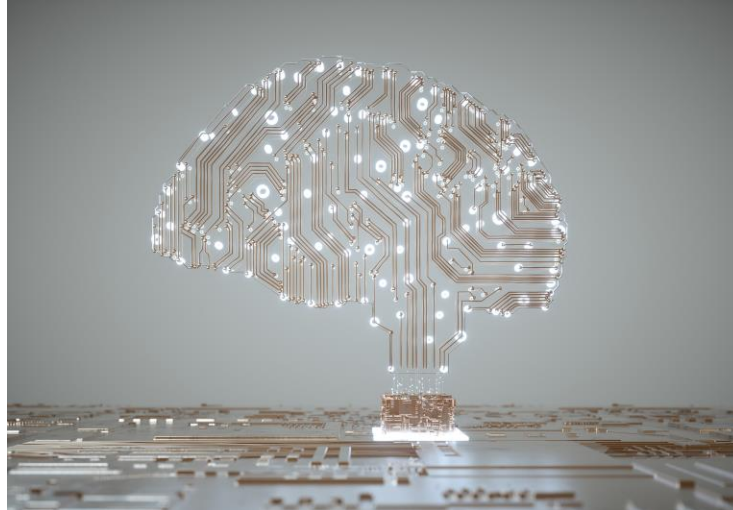
Evidence for and against memory training

- ACTIVE study group: Largest independent study to date of effects of cognitive training:
 - Excluded cognitive impairment
 - Randomized to undergo memory training, reasoning training, speed of processing training, or a control group
 - Major finding: cognitive training resulted in an improvement in the ability to perform the task that was being trained in the exercises when compared with the control group



Evidence for and against memory training

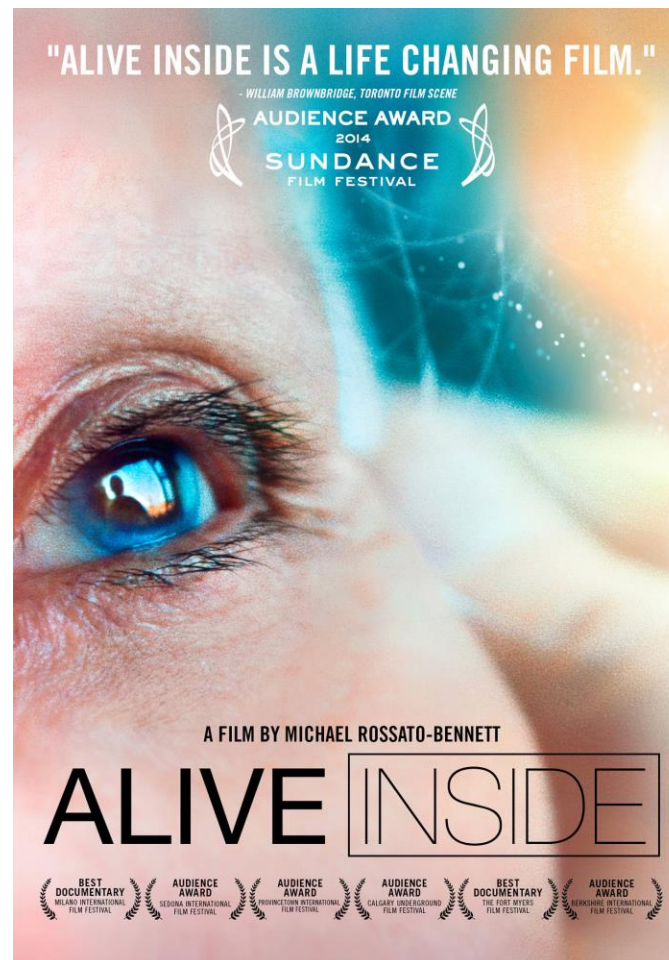
- Several dementia-specific studies of memory training have been performed, but have small sample sizes and confounders, such as concurrent treatment with dementia pharmacotherapy that make results difficult to interpret.
- Cochrane review 2007 of 32 trials showed no effects attributable to cognitive training



Evidence for and against memory training

- A systematic review of ten studies of cognitive training in mild cognitive impairment was published in BMC Geriatrics in 2011, which highlighted the sparse evidence in the literature, although it showed some consistency in outcomes regarding improved cognitive outcomes:
 - Only five studies were randomized control trials
 - Lack of standardization of interventions tested
 - Small sample sizes in studies analyzed
 - Wide variability in outcomes

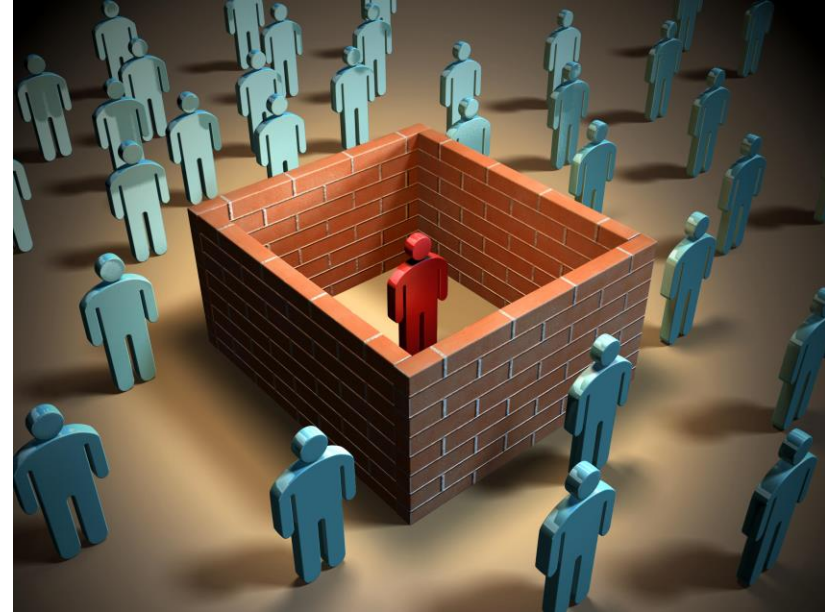
Music and Memory



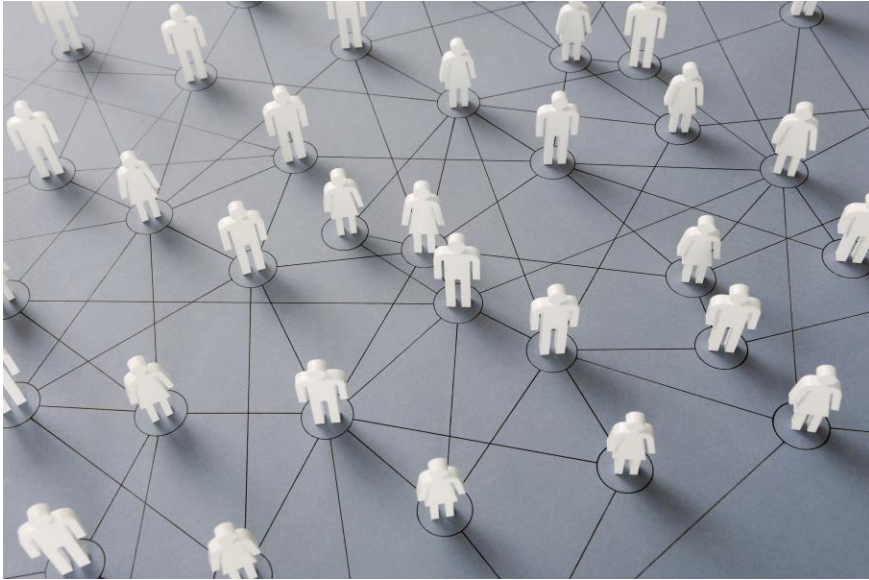


Pandemic Impact

- Many articles exist looking into COVID-19 effects on cognitive health
- Significant increase in behavioral disturbance as well as in onset of concerns about cognitive health as a result of pandemic
- Multi-factorial in causation, but the social isolation resulting from the pandemic quarantine likely contributed



What can be done for socialization?



- Group activities
- Adult day care services
- Multigenerational households
- Many local resources exist to help with socialization, can look into local chapters of Alzheimer's Association, Southern Caregiver Resource Center, community centers, and more to help.

What to practically advise in clinic?

For _____	_____
Address _____	Date _____
R_x	
1) Exercise	
2) Pursue a hobby	
REFILL _____	TIMES _____, M.D.
DEA NO. _____	Address _____

Brain Health Plan Summary

- Establish and prescribe an exercise regimen
- Thorough review of medications including supplements, deprescribing where able
- Encourage mental activity tailored to patient's capabilities and interests
- Educate on importance of socialization, provide resources for community opportunities in this regard
- Ensure a review of physical health problems has been performed through avenues, such as the annual wellness visit, including screening for depression, vision, and hearing.

Alzheimer's Project San Diego Healthy-Body Healthy-Brain Flyer

YOUR HEALTH IS UP TO YOU! MAKE IT FUN!

EATING HEALTHY IS EASY & COLORFUL!

- Try adding a new fruit or vegetable to your meals each month
- Pick foods of all different colors for your plate
- Olive and avocado oils are healthy fats to use instead of animal fats
- Have fresh fruit easily available for your family instead of candy and pastries
- Choose whole wheat and whole grains instead of white flour for breads
- Read package nutrition information and look for products with at least 5 grams of fiber
- Avoid fad diets that are hard to maintain and tend to promote weight gain after their use



HAVE FUN INCREASING YOUR ACTIVITY

- Pick one or two activities you really enjoy, and can do comfortably
- If you are getting started with activity, start slow and build up over a few weeks
- Try to get moderate exercise 30 minutes a day, three or four days a week
- Brisk walking, dancing, hiking can improve the health of your heart, lungs and circulatory system
- Make it a family activity! Get the kids out with you to improve their health as well.
- Gardening is a great strengthening activity for the whole family
- Try a new activity, like cycling, flying a kite with children, or exploring a new area of the community
- Be sure to stretch your muscles when you are done with your activity to keep muscles from aching



SOCIAL CONNECTION KEEPS YOU HAPPY

- Stay in touch with family and friends, even if it is on the telephone
- Plan and enjoy meals with friends and other families
- Your faith community can be an important social connection
- Take a class for social connection and testing your brain
- Find group activities you like, such as singing in a choir, joining a walking group or bowling league



TEST YOUR BRAIN

- Learn a new subject by reading or watching videos
- Sing songs from your childhood as well as new ones
- Try your hand at jigsaw puzzles or word games
- Tell your children and grandchildren stories about your life experiences
- Take a cooking class



KNOW YOUR HEALTH NUMBERS

- 0 - smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco
- 7 - 9 hours sleep nightly
- Know your blood pressure, weight, cholesterol, and blood sugar (A1c) and keep them in check
- 100% - Take all your medications as prescribed





Have more questions? Get answers through our
Warmline @ **1-800-933-1789** or our support page.

Here are some examples.

What do
I prioritize after a
positive CHA?

Is the CHA
covered for
patients over
age 65 who have
Medicare, but not
Medi-Cal?

Can I use the CHA
for a patient with
limited literacy?



Open your phone camera and scan
the QR code to submit questions:



Or visit: www.dementiacareaware.org

How to claim Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit

Step 1. Please complete our evaluation survey using the link provided in the chat and a follow-up email after the webinar. For this activity, we provide CME and California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) credits. Please select the correct link based on the credit type you are claiming.

Step 2. Upon completing the evaluation survey, please scan a QR code or link to claim credit:

- Use your phone camera to scan a QR code and tap the notification to open the link associated with the CME portal.
- Enter your first name, last name, profession, and claim **1 CE credit** for the webinar.