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ROLE OF NUTRITION AND INFLAMMATION ON AGEING BRAIN

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Aging Brain

Changes in Cognitive Functions- attention & Memory

Aging Brain and Inflammation

Nutrition in Cognitive function

Dementia - Impact, prevention, and challenges

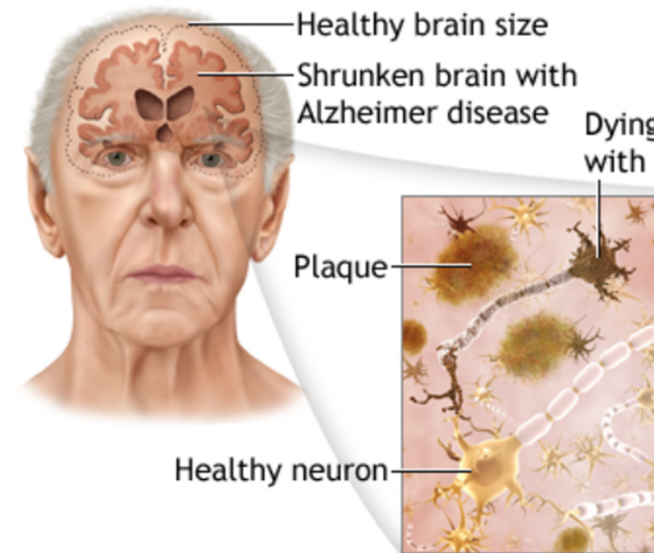
Aging Brain

ing has been described as a physiological process involving all body tissues

pectives of what can be considered normal ageing have continued to evolve over time, interventions are u
eted at adults who are 60 years of age and older

cturally, brain volume and/or brain weight have been shown to decrease about 5% per decade beginning
age of 40 years

n atrophy with increasing age, (70 and above), has reduction in
n volume, plus decrease in neuronal volume and neuronal metabolic
vity.



use TA. When does age-related cognitive decline begin?. *Neurobiol Aging*. 2009;30(4):507-514.
1016/j.neurobiolaging.2008.09.023

Aging Brain...

Decline in neuronal volume rather than number contributes to the changes in an ageing brain and it may be related to sex with different areas most affected in men and women.

Changes in dendritic arbour, spines, and synapses.

Dendritic sprouting may occur thus maintaining a similar number of synapses and compensating for any cell death.

Conversely a decrease in dendritic synapses or loss of synaptic plasticity has also been found.



Brain Changes in Aging

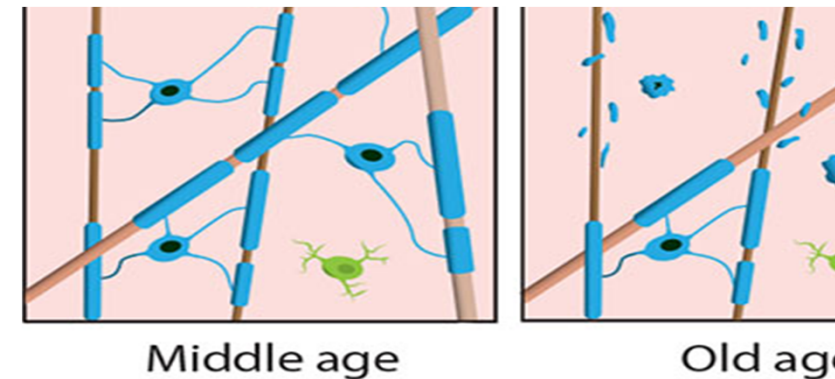
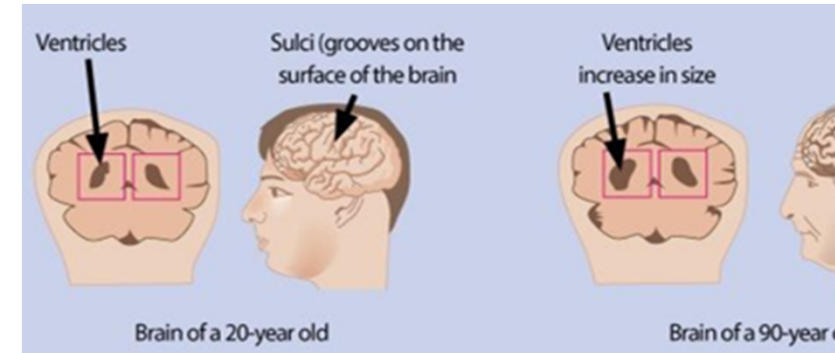
Brain shrinks in volume and the ventricular system expands in healthy aging. Largest changes seen in the frontal and temporal cortex, and in the putamen, thalamus, and accumbens

Cortical thickness and subcortical volume can be tracked over periods as short as one year, with annual reductions of between 0.5% and 1.0% in most brain areas.

The length of myelinated axons is greatly reduced, up to almost 50%

Reductions in specific cognitive abilities - processing speed, executive functions, and episodic memory—are seen in healthy aging.

These reductions are largely mediated by neuroanatomical changes



Aging Hippocampus

Structure of interest when considering aging and cognitive decline is the hippocampus

Main region important for learning and memory consolidation, affective behaviours and mood regulation

Here both functional and structural plasticity (e.g., neurogenesis) occur well into adulthood

Alterations seen in the aging hippocampus --

Oxidative stress, neuroinflammation, altered intracellular signalling and gene expression, reduced neurogenesis and synaptic plasticity

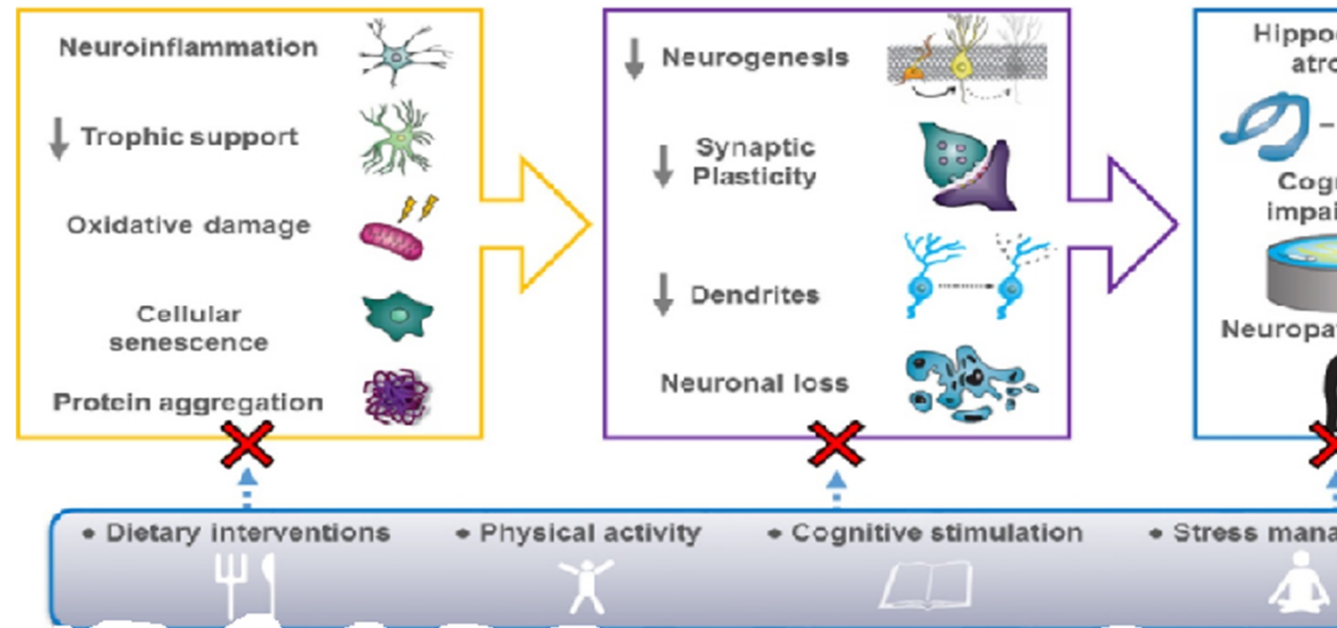
Non-invasive strategies-

Dietary restriction

Physical exercise

Environmental enrichment

Interact many of the age-induced alterations in hippocampal signalling, structure, and function.



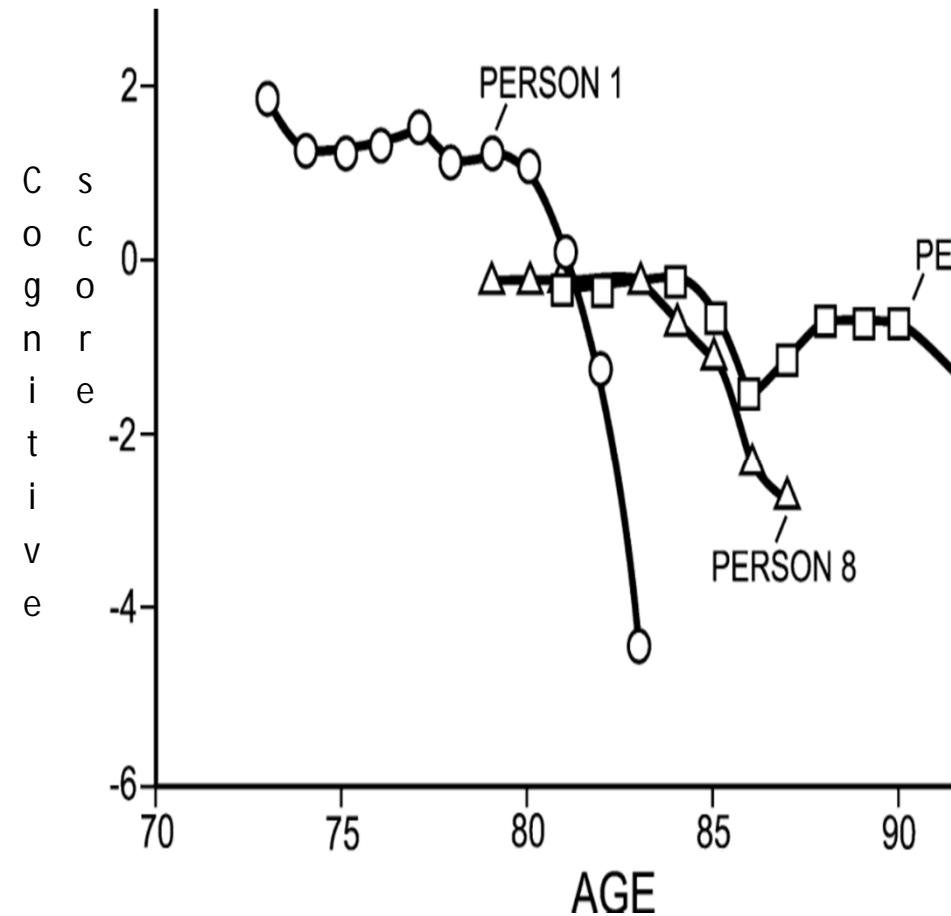
Cognitive change

Changes in brain structure and function are not uniform across the whole brain or across individuals

Age-related changes in cognition are not uniform across all cognitive domains or across all older individuals.

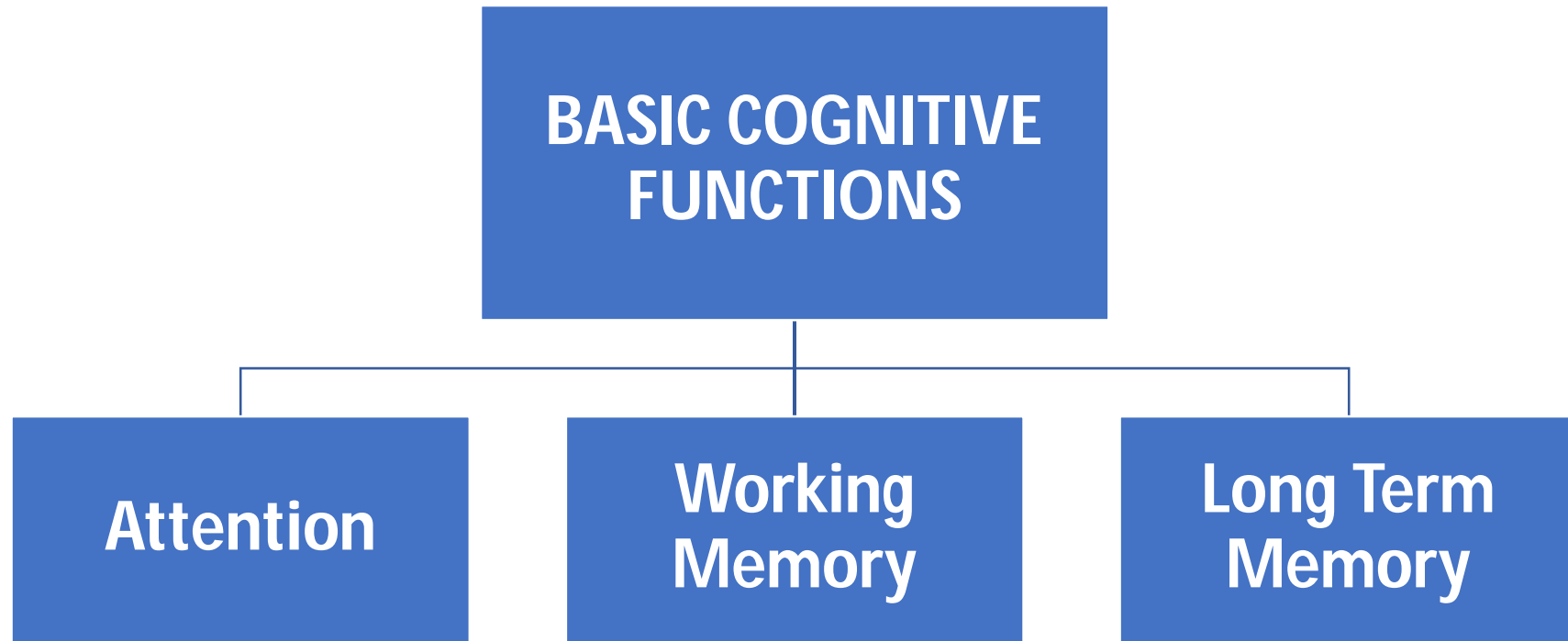
Executive cognitive functions most affected by age
Attention and **memory**

Research suggests that some aspects of attention and memory hold up well with age while others show significant declines.





CHANGES IN COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS





BASIC COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS

Attention

**Selective
Attention**

**Divided Attention
and Attention
Switching**

**Sustained
Attention**



***BASIC COGNITIVE
FUNCTIONS***

Working Memory

*Attentional
Resources*

*Speed of
Information
Processing*

*Inhibitory
Control*



BASIC COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS

Long Term Memory

Episodic Memory

Semantic Memory

Autobiographical Memory

Implicit Memory

Prospect Memor

Cognitive Super Agers: The brains of cognitive super agers (80+ years) seem to defy wear and tear better than the average brain.

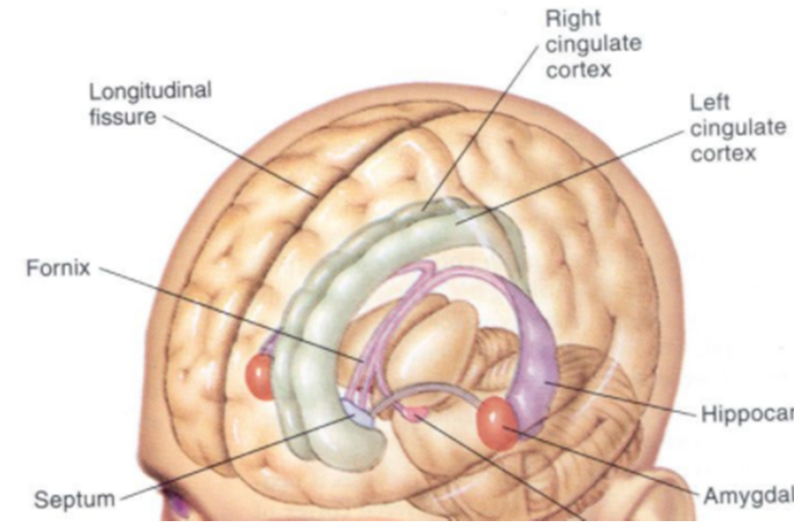
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans of cognitive super agers and cognitively normal peers showed that cognitively normal people in the 50- to 65-year age range.

The anterior cingulate cortex, which was thicker in super agers than in their middle-age peers, is a brain region considered important for the integration of information related to memory, attention, cognitive control, and motivation.

Atrophy compared with the same brain region of the middle-aged peers.

A specific region of the anterior cingulate cortex was significantly thicker compared to the middle-aged peers' brains.

Researchers at Northwestern University's [Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease](#) in Chicago



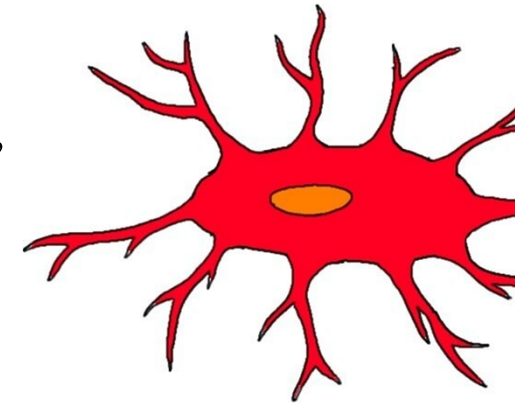
Researchers found that super agers' brains contained a much higher density of von Economo neurons, which are linked to social intelligence and awareness. Their brains had more of these neurons even than the brains of younger adults.

Social factors also could play a role in healthy cognitive aging. Study on [psychological well-being](#) among 31 cognitive super agers and 19 cognitively normal peers. The super agers reported more friends and family connections, a finding that builds on past research showing links between psychological well-being and lower risk of Alzheimer's disease.

AGEING BRAIN AND INFLAMMATION

Inflammation is a protective response to cell and tissue damage to destroy and remove harmful agents and injured tissues, promoting tissue repair.

If inflammation is uncontrolled, it can cause excessive damage to cells and tissues, ultimately leading to destruction of normal tissue and chronic inflammation.



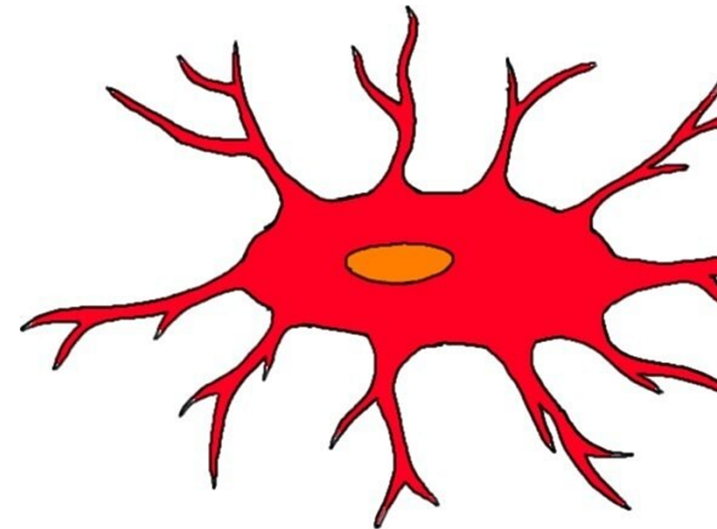
Microglial macrophages in the brain become chronically activated during ageing, and particularly under pathological conditions, to promote sustained production of pro-inflammatory cytokines, including interleukin- 1β , interleukin-6 (IL-6) and tumour necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)

AGEING BRAIN AND INFLAMMATION

Increased oxidative stress by excessive release of harmful reactive oxygen and nitrogen species (ROS and RNS), further promote neuronal damage and subsequent inflammation resulting in a feed-forward loop of neurodegeneration

A number of the structural and functional changes observed in the ageing brain can be attributed to increased brain oxidative stress and progressive imbalance occurs between the intracellular concentration of reactive oxygen species and the brain's antioxidant defense system

Inflammation has been strongly associated with the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's Disease and some types of frontotemporal dementia



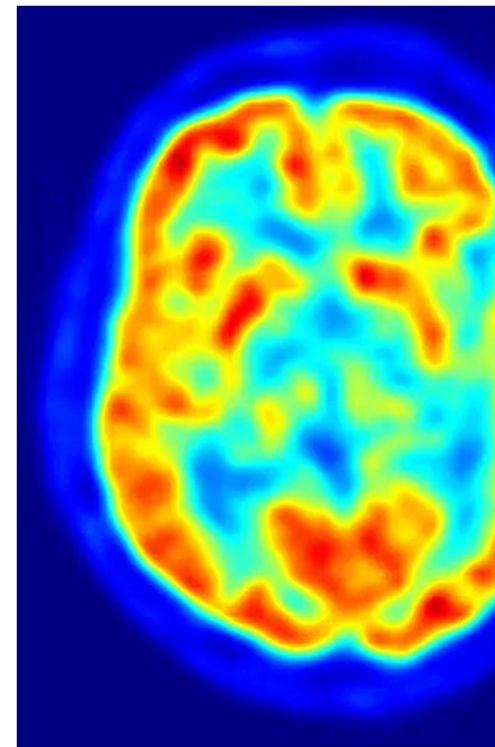
Inflammation and Cognition in the Elderly

uroinflammation , Inflammation in the brain has been recognized and linked to many disorders including

- Depression
- Psychosis
- Multiple sclerosis

In healthy older adults, peripheral inflammation has been related to cognitive decline and to greater structural change .

In middle-aged adults, chronic peripheral inflammation correlates with higher incidence of dementia.



Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) is one of the most studied neurotrophins in the healthy and diseased brain.

There is a large body of evidence that associates BDNF with neuronal maintenance, neuronal survival, plasticity, and neurotransmitter regulation.

Patients with psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders often have reduced BDNF concentrations in their blood and brain.

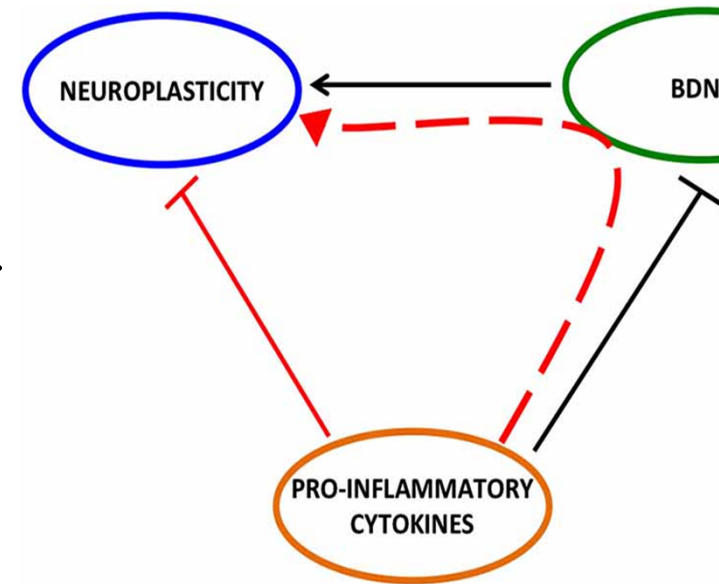
Recent studies have investigated the link between BDNF and neuroinflammation.

The negative impact of inflammation on BDNF has important implications in a number of pathological conditions.

It is known that pro-inflammatory cytokines compromise hippocampus-dependent memory

spatial memory

increase apoptosis in the brain, features that are involved in many aging-associated pathologies and neurodegenerative diseases.



Detrimental effect of pro-inflammatory cytokines on neuroplasticity may be mediated by BDNF.

Role of Diets on NeuroInflammation

Diet is known to modulate the immune system and several nutrients and bioactive components can influence neuroinflammatory processes. For example, polyphenols, unsaturated fats and antioxidant vitamins inhibit oxidative stress and neuroinflammation.

The synergistic effects of nutrients and foods when consumed together as a usual dietary pattern are likely to exert greater effects on inflammatory processes and neurodegeneration during ageing.



Nutrition in Cognitive Function and Brain Ageing

nutrition likely influences trajectories of cognitive and neurobiological change in older adults

Healthy diets appear to 'tip the balance' in favour of healthy ageing, and decrease risk of neurodegenerative pathologies such as AD and other forms of dementia

Modern dietary patterns recognize that foods and nutrients are biologically interactive, acting together rather than in isolation

Three dietary patterns that have been associated with cognitive outcomes:

- (1) The Mediterranean diet (MeDi)
- (2) The Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet
- (3) the Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay (MIND) diet



The Mediterranean Diet(MD)

traditional dietary pattern consumed in Mediterranean countries and is characterized by

high intake of fruits, vegetables

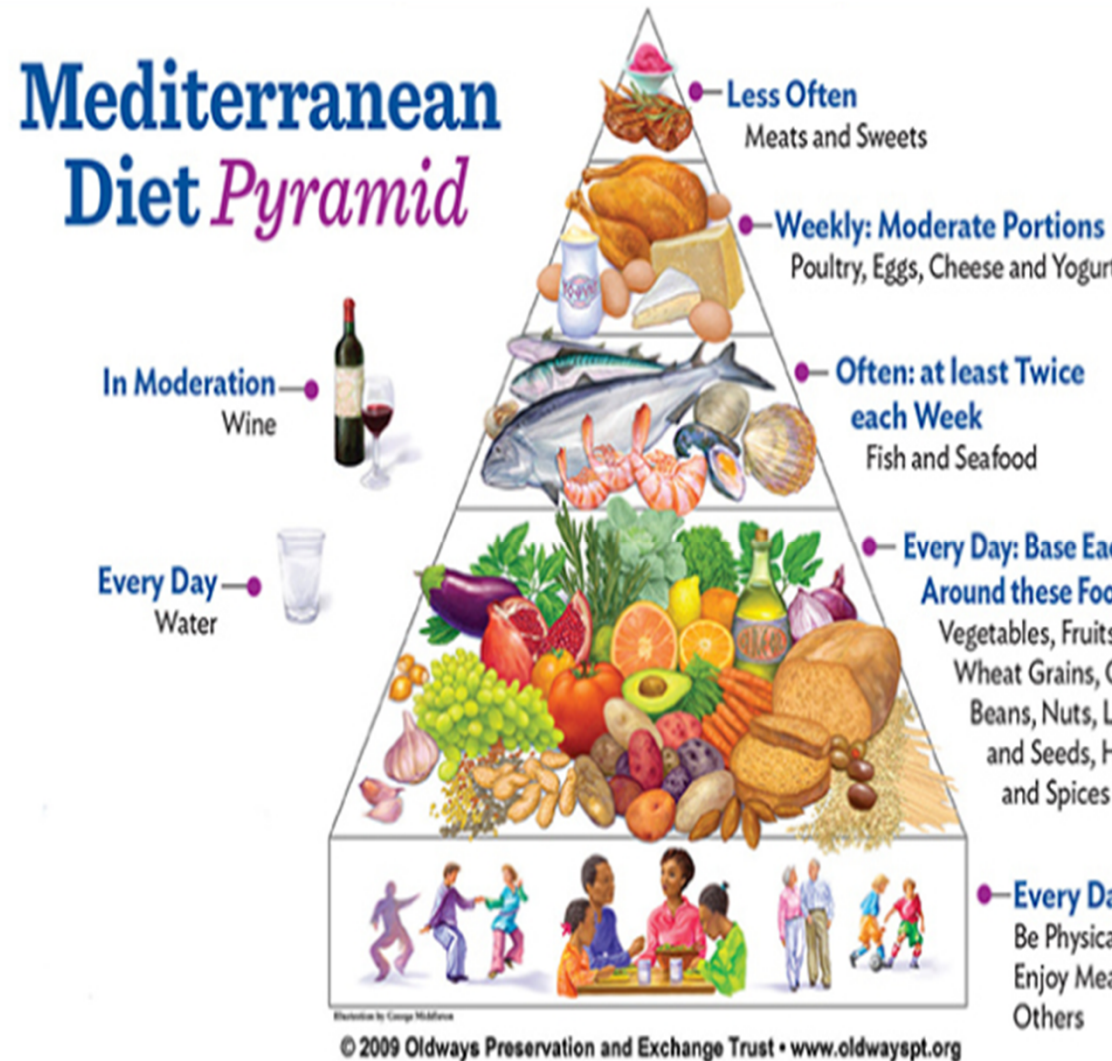
whole grains

nuts and legumes

moderate intake of fish, poultry and alcohol (particularly red wine, with meals)

low intake of red and processed meats

olive oil used as the main fat source.



Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH)

DASH diet is an accepted non-pharmacological treatment for hypertension and, like the MD, recommends a high intake of fruits, vegetables, nuts and wholegrain products

In contrast to a MD, DASH places greater emphasis on low fat dairy products, low dietary sodium and does not recommend alcohol



Appel LJ, Moore TJ, Obarzanek E, Vollmer WM, Svetkey LP, Bray GA, Vogt TM, Windhauser MM, Lin PH, Karanja N. A dietary approach to prevent hypertension: results of the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) Study. *Clin Cardiol.* 1999;22(11):1116-10. doi: 10.1002/clc.4960221503. PMID: 10410299.

Smith, Patrick J. et al. 'Metabolic and Neurocognitive Changes Following Lifestyle Modification: Examination of Biomarkers in the ENLIGHTEN Randomized Clinical Trial'. 1 Jan. 2020 : 179-1803

er adults, higher DASH scores have been associated with

r cognitive function

er cognitive decline

ved **cognitive function** in response to a calorie restricted DASH
among **overweight adults with hypertension**

ovement in **executive function** among those consuming DASH
ined with **aerobic exercise**

ges in neurocognition after lifestyle modification are associated
mproved metabolic function.



Appel LJ, Moore TJ, Obarzanek E, Vollmer WM, Svetkey LP, Bray GA, Vogt TM, Windhauser MM, Lin PH, Karanja N. A dietary approach to prevent hypertension: results of the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) Study. *Clin Cardiol.* 1999;22(11):III6-10. doi: 10.1002/clc.4960221503. PMID: 10410299.

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Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay (MIND) diet

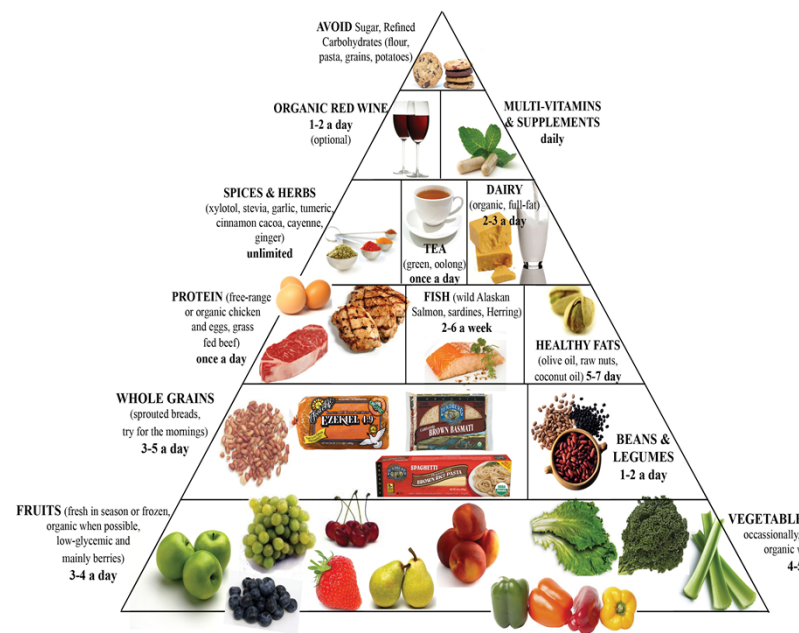
The MIND diet, a fusion of Mediterranean and DASH diets, was developed based on scientific data to identify the nutrients, foods and dietary patterns related to brain health and dementia.

The MIND diet is composed of brain-healthy components: green leafy vegetables, other vegetables, nuts, berries, beans, whole grains, fish, poultry, olive oil, and wine

The MIND diet score was more predictive of cognitive decline than either the MeDi or DASH diet

The MIND and Mediterranean diets had comparable protective associations to AD suggesting that the MIND diet is not specific to the underlying pathology of Alzheimer disease.

The cross-sectional association between higher MIND diet score and better composite test scores of global cognitive function



My Plate for the Day

Promotes Health

Prevents Hidden Hunger and Protects from Diseases



Regular consumption of foods in proportions as per the model plate

- improves immunity and resistance to infections
- maintains good microbial flora (beneficial bacteria in the intestine)
- prevents Diabetes Mellitus, Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs) such as heart attack, stroke and many other diseases
- maintains appropriate alkalinity and thereby reduces inflammation and decreases chances of kidney stone formation
- prevents insulin resistance and maintains appropriate insulin sensitivity and glycaemic index
- ensures adequate intake of fibre and therefore prevents constipation
- prevents adverse effects of environmental pollution and toxins such as heavy metals and pesticides by working as a detoxifying diet

'Plate for the day' represents proportions of different food groups for meeting ~2000 Kcal

Risk Factors

Overweight/Obesity

Hypertension

High Cholesterol

Dyslipidaemia

Type II Diabetes

Poor mental or Social

Stimulation

Sedentary lifestyle

Smoking

Protective Factors

✓ Healthy eating

✓ Regular exercise

✓ Keeping your brain active

✓ Social connections

✓ Getting enough sleep

Dementia - Impact, prevention, and challenges

Large increase in the burden of dementias and cognitive decline associated with aging.

The care of dementia patients is extremely time and cost intensive (600bn).

There is a dearth of information on economic costs and social burden of dementia in the Indian population.

Primary Prevention: The modifiable factors such as cardiovascular risk factors (type 2 diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and hypercholesterolemia), lifestyle factors (smoking, alcoholism, unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity), depression, and head injury are to be targeted for intervention

Secondary Prevention: It focuses on early detection before the emergence of overt dementia and halts the progression. Early intervention also enhances the quality of life of the demented patient and is known to cause less severe behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia

Tertiary prevention: focuses on timely diagnosis and treatment of cognitive, behavioral, and psychological symptoms along with decreasing caregiver burden and improving quality of life.

Moving Forward...

Understanding the nature of the epidemic: Dementia is a syndrome of multiple etiologies, predominantly degenerative in nature. The focus should be primary prevention of risk factors from a young age

Steps for early identification and management: Programs to raise awareness to reduce stigma, and wide screening using a reliable tool should be considered.

Handling the caregiver burden: Considering the increasing dependency ratio, the caregiver burden is going to be huge.

Research focus: Research should focus on understanding the neuropathological changes of disease and its correlation to clinical features. It helps in finding appropriate screening and diagnostic tool along with strategies or drugs to halt or reverse the progression of disease

Health policy focus: Policies should address health determinants' right from birth and enhance cognitive reserve for populations by promoting education and thereby economic well-being. Budget spending on health and education should rise significantly in upcoming years to halt the epidemic of dementia.

Maniathan, R., & Kantipudi, S. J. (2018). The dementia epidemic: Impact, prevention, and challenges for India. Indian journal of psychiatry, 60(2), 165–167. https://doi.org/10.4103/psychiatry.IndianJPsychiatry_261_18

Thank you