

Physician Fact Sheet About The Potential Role Of Cardiovascular Disease In The Development Of Dementia in Later Life

1. Individuals with untreated or under-treated hypertension during midlife may have increased risk of dementia in later life.
2. Individuals with untreated or under-treated hypertension during midlife may have diminished cognitive function in later life even in the absence of dementia.
3. Midlife obesity may increase the likelihood of late-life dementia.
4. The “metabolic” syndrome includes hypertension, dyslipidemia, obesity, and Type-II diabetes.
5. The metabolic syndrome in midlife is a risk factor for dementia in later life.
6. Midlife diabetes is a risk factor for cognitive decline and depression in later life.
7. Stroke is a significant risk factor for dementia in later life.
8. Elevated serum homocysteine is a risk factor for dementia.
9. Cardiac damage with low ejection fraction or left ventricular hypertrophy are risk factors for cognitive loss in later life.
10. Untreated atrial fibrillation may be a risk factor for dementia in older persons.
11. Available research methodologies cannot accurately quantitate the severity of vascular damage in the aged human brain.
12. Physicians can encourage long-term cardiovascular risk factor reduction and prevention of metabolic syndromes by linking these disorders to risks for dementia in later life.