

Alzheimer's patients are more often hospitalized after initiating antibiotic use

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People with Alzheimer's disease (AD) are more often hospitalized after antibiotic initiation than people without AD, a new study from the University of Eastern Finland shows. The risk of hospitalization was 40 per cent higher for persons with Alzheimer's disease. The findings were published in *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.

Out of individual antibiotics, persons with Alzheimer's disease were more often hospitalized than people without AD after the initiation of cephalexine, pivmecillinam, amoxicillin and doxycycline. Hospitalization was associated with pre-existing illnesses, such as epilepsy or cancer, and certain medications, such as antipsychotic and benzodiazepine use.

This study used data from a Finnish register-based cohort, which includes all persons diagnosed with

Alzheimer's disease in Finland during 2005–2011. The researchers analysed 34,785 persons who used [antibiotics](#) in an outpatient setting after their Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, and their comparison persons matched according to age, sex and region of residence.

Previous studies have shown that infections are a significant cause of hospitalization in persons with dementia. This study is the first to document hospitalization after antibiotic initiation. These results confirm the role of infections as a cause of hospitalization in persons with Alzheimer's disease.

More information: Heli Järvinen et al. Hospitalization after Oral Antibiotic Initiation in Finnish Community Dwellers with and without Alzheimer's Disease: Retrospective Register-Based Cohort Study, *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* (2018). [DOI: 10.3233/JAD-180125](https://doi.org/10.3233/JAD-180125)

Provided by University of Eastern Finland

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