

Ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen may be equally effective at reducing risk of Alzheimer's disease

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Different types of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, naproxen, and aspirin, appear to be equally effective in lowering the risk of Alzheimer's disease, according to the largest study of its kind published in the May 28, 2008, online issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Experts have debated whether a certain group of NSAIDs that includes ibuprofen may be more beneficial than another group that includes naproxen and aspirin.

Using information from six different studies, researchers examined data on NSAID use in 13,499 people without dementia. Over the course of these six studies, 820 participants developed Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers found that people who used NSAIDs had 23 percent lower risk of developing Alzheimer's disease compared to those who never used NSAIDs. The risk reduction did not appear to depend upon the type of NSAID taken.

"This is an interesting finding because it seems to challenge a current theory that the NSAID group which includes ibuprofen may work better in reducing a person's risk of Alzheimer's," said study author Peter P. Zandi, PhD, with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD. "The NSAID group that includes ibuprofen was thought to target a certain type of plaque in the brain found in Alzheimer's patients. But our results suggest there may be other reasons why these drugs may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's."

The study's lead author Chris Szekely, PhD, with Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, says the discrepancy between studies such as this one and the negative clinical trials of NSAIDs in

treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's need to be further explored.

Source: American Academy of Neurology

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