

**Use of statins and the risk of dementia and mild cognitive impairment:  
A systematic review and meta-analysis**

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## Supplementary Online Materials

### Supplemental Table S1: Excluded studies with reasons.

**Studies excluded: n = 213**

**(detail please see reference list in the supplementary material Table S2)**

Review n = 68 (1-68)

Comment n = 19 (69-87)

Meta-analysis study n = 11 (88-98)

RCT trials (reason written in method) n = 6 (99-104)

Case-control study n = 19 (105-123)

Cross-sectional study n = 6 (124-129)

Not baseline cognitively healthy population n = 26 (130-155)

Not dementia/AD outcome n = 25 (156-180)

Outcome as cognitive change n = 4 (181-184)

Follow-up period less than one year n = 18 (185-202)

Others n = 11 (same population = 2 (203, 204); animal study = 2 (205, 206);  
quasi-experimental study = 1 (207); study protocol = 2 (208, 209); no data  
available = 2 (210, 211); no non-statin control group = 2 (212, 213)

## Supplemental Table S2: supplementary references of recruited studies

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**Supplemental Table S3: Covariates considered in multivariable models in each included study.**

| Author (year)                     | Covariates considered in multivariable analyses   | Numbers of adjust |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Harding, 2017 <sup>35*</sup>      | Age, education, BMI, and PROCAM 10-year cardiovascular risk   | 4                 |
| Chitnis, 2015 <sup>39</sup>       | Age, sex, number of all drugs, number of comorbid conditions, centers for medicare and Medicaid services risk score, number of years in the cohort, hospitalization, creatinine, LDL-C, and HbA1c   | 10                |
| Hendrie, 2015 <sup>40</sup>       | Age, sex, education, apoE, HTN, DM, cancer, depression, CHD, and stroke   | 10                |
| Chen, 2014 <sup>37</sup>          | Age group, sex, CCI group, stroke types, and anti-DM drugs  | 5                 |
| Ancelin, 2012 <sup>18</sup>       | Age, centre, education, baseline cognitive performance, marital status, BMI, mobility, alcohol, depression, anticholinergic use, chronic respiratory disorder, hormonal treatment, ischemic pathologies, HTN, DM, LDL-C, triglyceride, apoE4, and cholesterol exchange transfer protein | 19                |
| Bettermann, 2012 <sup>8</sup>     | Age, sex, race, field center, education, ginkgo biloba randomization group, apoE, stroke, CHD, and use of LLA   | 10                |
| Beydoun, 201 <sup>41</sup>        | Age, sex, education, race, smoking, HTN, DM, CAD, dyslipidemia, BMI, systolic blood pressure  | 11                |
| Parikh, 2011 <sup>43</sup>        | Age, sex, race, geographic region, insulin, OHA, year in which DM diagnosed, and Hierarchical condition categories  | 8                 |
| Hippisley-Cox, 2010 <sup>42</sup> | Age, sex, BMI, DM, CAD, TCA, SSRI, and depression   | 7                 |
| Li, 2010 <sup>13</sup>            | Age, sex, education, race, smoking, CASI scores, BMI, apoE, comorbid vascular disease, and other LLA  | 10                |
| Haag, 2009 <sup>10</sup>          | Age, sex, education, smoking, BMI, systolic blood pressure, DM, cholesterol, CAD, cerebrovasc   | 11                |

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|                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
|                                 | ular disease, and other LLA   |   |
| Solomon, 2009 <sup>45</sup>     | Age, sex, education, blood pressure, BMI, cholesterol                       | 6 |
| Schneider, 2009 <sup>44</sup>   | Age, race, education, chronic disease burden, cholesterol, NSAID, aspirin   | 7 |
| Arvanitakis, 2008 <sup>19</sup> | Age, sex, Education   | 3 |
| Cramer, 2008 <sup>9</sup>       | Education, smoking, DM, apoE, stroke, and 3MS                               | 6 |
| Sparks, 2008 <sup>26</sup>      | Age, sex, education, apoE   | 4 |
| Li, 2007 <sup>50</sup>          | Age at death, sex, CASI, presence of microvascular lesions and brain weight | 5 |
| Szwast, 2007 <sup>49</sup>      | Age, sex, education, apoE, and LDL-C  | 5 |
| Wolozin, 2007 <sup>48</sup>     | Age, HTN, DM, CAD, and CCI  | 6 |
| Zigman, 2007 <sup>46</sup>      | Age, sex, level of MR, BMI, cholesterol, and apoE                           | 6 |
| Rea, 2005 <sup>22</sup>         | Age, sex, education, alcohol, 3MS, CHD, stroke                              | 7 |
| Zandi, 2005 <sup>25</sup>       | Age, sex, education, HTN, DM, and apoE                                      | 6 |
| Li, 2004 <sup>21</sup>          | Age, education, apoE, and other LLA   | 4 |
| Reitz, 2004 <sup>23</sup>       | Age, sex, education, race, BMI, DM, HTN, heart disease, and apoE            | 9 |
| Yaffe, 2002 <sup>47</sup>       | Age, education, smoking, treatment group, cholesterol, and CABG surgery     | 6 |

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\*Reference number is same with main manuscript.

**Abbreviation:** Abbreviations: 3MS: Modified mini-mental state examination; AD= Alzheimer’s Disease; ApoE= Apolipoprotein E; BMI = Body Mass Index; CABG = Coronary artery bypass graft; CAD = Cardiovascular disease; CASI = Cognitive ability screening instrument; CCI = Charlson comorbidity index; CHD= Coronary Heart Disease; DM = Diabetes; EMR = Electronic Medical Records; HTN= Hypertension; HVLT = Hopkins Verbal Learning Test; LDL-C = Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LLA = Lipid lowering agents; MCI = Mild cognitive impairment; MR = Mental retardation; N/A = Not Applicable; NSU: No Statin Use; OHA = Oral hypoglycemic agents; PROCAM = Prospective cardiovascular Munster; SEVLT: Spanish and English

Verbal Learning Test; SSRI = Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; SU: Statin User;  
TCA = tricyclic antidepressants.

**Supplemental Table S4: Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale (NOS) scores of included studies**

| Author (year)                     | Selection | Comparability | Outcome | Total scores |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| Harding, 2017 <sup>35*</sup>      | 3         | 2             | 3       | 8            |
| Chitnis, 2015 <sup>39</sup>       | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Hendrie, 2015 <sup>40</sup>       | 3         | 2             | 2       | 7            |
| Chen, 2014 <sup>37</sup>          | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Ancelin, 2012 <sup>18</sup>       | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Bettermann, 2012 <sup>8</sup>     | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Beydoun, 2011 <sup>41</sup>       | 3         | 2             | 2       | 7            |
| Parikh, 2011 <sup>43</sup>        | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Hippisley-Cox, 2010 <sup>42</sup> | 3         | 2             | 2       | 7            |
| Li, 2010 <sup>13</sup>            | 4         | 2             | 3       | 9            |
| Haag, 2009 <sup>10</sup>          | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Solomon, 2009 <sup>45</sup>       | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Schneider, 2009 <sup>44</sup>     | 4         | 1             | 1       | 6            |
| Arvanitakis, 2008 <sup>19</sup>   | 3         | 2             | 2       | 7            |
| Cramer, 2008 <sup>9</sup>         | 3         | 2             | 3       | 8            |
| Sparks, 2008 <sup>26</sup>        | 2         | 2             | 3       | 7            |
| Li, 2007 <sup>50</sup>            | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Szwast, 2007 <sup>49</sup>        | 4         | 2             | 3       | 9            |
| Wolozin, 2007 <sup>48</sup>       | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |
| Zigman, 2007 <sup>46</sup>        | 2         | 1             | 1       | 4            |
| Rea, 2005 <sup>22</sup>           | 4         | 2             | 2       | 8            |



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|                           |                 |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Zandi, 2005 <sup>25</sup> | 3               | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| Li, 2004 <sup>21</sup>    | 4               | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Reitz, 2004 <sup>23</sup> | <sup>47</sup> 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Yaffe, 2002 <sup>47</sup> | 4               | 2 | 2 | 8 |

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\*Reference number is same with main manuscript.

**Supplemental Table S5: Random-effects meta-regression analyses of potential moderators of the association of statins use and incident all-caused dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and mild cognitive impairment.**

**All-caused dementia**

| Clinical variables                   | Number of datasets | Slope<br>95% CI                       | P-value      | Intercept<br>z                 | P-value      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Age                                  | 19                 | 0.002<br>-0.015 to 0.020              | 0.808        | -0.366<br>-0.571               | 0.568        |
| Male (%)                             | 20                 | -0.002<br>-0.007 to 0.003             | 0.406        | -0.097<br>-0.604               | 0.546        |
| Education                            | 8                  | 0.016<br>-0.069 to 0.101              | 0.709        | -0.516<br>-1.004               | 0.315        |
| <b>White</b>                         | 12                 | <b>0.005</b><br><b>0.001 to 0.008</b> | <b>0.006</b> | <b>-0.533</b><br><b>-3.617</b> | <b>0.001</b> |
| Study duration                       | 20                 | -0.013<br>-0.041 to 0.014             | 0.334        | -0.139<br>-1.258               | 0.209        |
| Cardiovascular disease (%)           | 9                  | 0.008<br>-0.001 to 0.017              | 0.072        | <b>-0.458</b><br><b>-2.306</b> | <b>0.021</b> |
| Cerebrovascular disease (%)          | 10                 | 0.005<br>-0.003 to 0.012              | 0.216        | <b>-0.290</b><br><b>-2.346</b> | <b>0.019</b> |
| DM (%)                               | 14                 | -0.001<br>-0.005 to 0.003             | 0.743        | -0.115<br>-0.973               | 0.331        |
| HTN (%)                              | 12                 | -0.005<br>-0.012 to 0.003             | 0.233        | 0.171<br>0.672                 | 0.501        |
| Smoking (%)                          | 6                  | -0.004<br>-0.023 to 0.015             | 0.691        | -0.221<br>-0.735               | 0.462        |
| <b>Cholesterol &gt; 200mg/dl (%)</b> | 5                  | <b>0.018</b><br><b>0.004 to 0.031</b> | <b>0.009</b> | <b>-1.137</b><br><b>-2.710</b> | <b>0.007</b> |
| apoE4 >or=1(%)                       | 10                 | -0.009                                | 0.357        | 0.043                          | 0.880        |

|                       |    |                 |       |               |              |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------|-------|---------------|--------------|
|                       |    | -0.027 to 0.010 |       | 0.150         |              |
| BMI>25                | 7  | -0.002          | 0.866 | -0.139        | 0.811        |
|                       |    | -0.029 to 0.025 |       | -0.240        |              |
| Newcastle total       | 20 | 0.170           | 0.128 | -1.560        | 0.078        |
|                       |    | -0.049 to 0.389 |       | -1.764        |              |
| Number of covariables | 20 | 0.017           | 0.322 | <b>-0.361</b> | <b>0.023</b> |
|                       |    | -0.017 to 0.510 |       | <b>-2.269</b> |              |

### Alzheimer`s Disease

| Clinical variables          | Number of datasets | Slope<br>95% CI         | P-value      | Intercept<br>z | P-value      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Age                         | 15                 | 0.042                   | 0.068        | <b>-3.403</b>  | <b>0.047</b> |
|                             |                    | -0.003 to 0.088         |              | <b>-1.990</b>  |              |
| Male (%)                    | 15                 | -0.003                  | 0.542        | -0.171         | 0.471        |
|                             |                    | -0.012 to 0.007         |              | -0.721         |              |
| Education                   | 10                 | 0.008                   | 0.854        | -0.448         | 0.461        |
|                             |                    | -0.075 to 0.090         |              | -0.738         |              |
| <b>White</b>                | 10                 | <b>0.006</b>            | <b>0.047</b> | <b>-0.666</b>  | <b>0.004</b> |
|                             |                    | <b>0.001 to 0.011</b>   |              | <b>-2.861</b>  |              |
| <b>Study duration</b>       | 14                 | <b>-0.063</b>           | <b>0.033</b> | 0.181          | 0.419        |
|                             |                    | <b>-0.121 to -0.005</b> |              | 0.808          |              |
| Cardiovascular disease (%)  | 9                  | 0.001                   | 0.884        | <b>-0.395</b>  | <b>0.023</b> |
|                             |                    | -0.010 to 0.011         |              | <b>-2.279</b>  |              |
| Cerebrovascular disease (%) | 10                 | 0.001                   | 0.884        | <b>-0.290</b>  | <b>0.019</b> |
|                             |                    | -0.003 to 0.012         |              | <b>-2.346</b>  |              |
| DM (%)                      | 12                 | -0.004                  | 0.304        | -0.179         | 0.310        |
|                             |                    | -0.012 to 0.004         |              | -1.015         |              |
| HTN (%)                     | 10                 | -0.007                  | 0.581        | 0.169          | 0.808        |

|                          |    |  |                         |              |               |
|--------------------------|----|--|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                          |    |  | -0.032 to 0.018         |              | 0.243         |
| Smoking (%)              | 6  |  | -0.003                  | 0.801        | -0.404        |
|                          |    |  | -0.025 to 0.020         |              | -1.179        |
| <b>apoE4 &gt;or=1(%)</b> | 12 |  | <b>-0.042</b>           | <b>0.044</b> | 0.858         |
|                          |    |  | <b>-0.082 to -0.001</b> |              | 1.585         |
| BMI>25                   | 6  |  | 0.015                   | 0.094        | <b>-0.811</b> |
|                          |    |  | -0.003 to 0.032         |              | <b>-2.207</b> |
| Drop-out rate            | 5  |  | 0.005                   | 0.639        | -0.377        |
|                          |    |  | -0.016 to 0.025         |              | -1.939        |
| Newcastle total          | 15 |  | 0.156                   | 0.375        | -1.551        |
|                          |    |  | -0.188 to 0.500         |              | -1.098        |
| Number of covariables    | 15 |  | 0.029                   | 0.133        | <b>-0.566</b> |
|                          |    |  | -0.009 to 0.067         |              | <b>-2.677</b> |

#### Mild cognitive impairment

| Clinical variables           | Number of datasets | Slope 95% CI            | P-value      | Intercept z   | P-value      |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Age                          | 5                  | -0.009                  | 0.751        | 0.556         | 0.769        |
|                              |                    | -0.062 to 0.048         |              | 0.293         |              |
| <b>Male (%)</b>              | <b>6</b>           | <b>-0.008</b>           | <b>0.022</b> | <b>-0.042</b> | <b>0.018</b> |
|                              |                    | <b>-0.014 to -0.001</b> |              | <b>-2.367</b> |              |
| Study duration               | 6                  | 0.020                   | 0.278        | -0.219        | 0.171        |
|                              |                    | -0.017 to 0.058         |              | -1.369        |              |
| Newcastle total              | 6                  | 0.317                   | 0.098        | -2.577        | 0.092        |
|                              |                    | -0.059 to 0.692         |              | -1.683        |              |
| <b>Number of covariables</b> | <b>6</b>           | <b>-0.114</b>           | <b>0.011</b> | <b>0.416</b>  | <b>0.023</b> |
|                              |                    | <b>-0.202 to -0.026</b> |              | <b>2.282</b>  |              |

**Abbreviations:** BMI = body mass index; CI = confidence interval; DM = diabetes mellitus; HTN = hypertension; Statistically significant results are in bold

**Supplemental Table S6: Checklist of PRISMA guideline.**

| <b>Section/Topic</b>      | <b>#</b> | <b>Checklist Item</b>   | <b>Reported on Page #</b> |
|---------------------------|----------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>TITLE</b>              |          |   |                           |
| Title                     | 1        | Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.   | 1                         |
| <b>ABSTRACT</b>           |          |   |                           |
| Structured summary        | 2        | Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number. | 5                         |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>       |          |   |                           |
| Rationale                 | 3        | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.  | 6-7                       |
| Objectives                | 4        | Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).  | 7-8                       |
| <b>METHODS</b>            |          |   |                           |
| Protocol and registration | 5        | Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.   | 21-22                     |
| Eligibility criteria      | 6        | Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.  | 21-22                     |
| Information sources       | 7        | Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.  | 21-22                     |
| Search                    | 8        | Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.   | 21-22                     |

|                                    |    |  |               |
|------------------------------------|----|--|---------------|
| Study selection                    | 9  | State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).  | 21-22         |
| Data collection process            | 10 | Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.   | 23-24         |
| Data items                         | 11 | List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.  | 23-24         |
| Risk of bias in individual studies | 12 | Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis. | 23-24         |
| Summary measures                   | 13 | State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).  | 23-24         |
| Synthesis of results               | 14 | Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.  | 23-24         |
| Risk of bias across studies        | 15 | Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).   | 23-24         |
| Additional analyses                | 16 | Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.   | 23-24         |
| <b>RESULTS</b>                     |    |  |               |
| Study selection                    | 17 | Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.  | 9-10          |
| Study characteristics              | 18 | For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.   | 9-10, table 1 |
| Risk of bias within studies        | 19 | Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).  | 9-10          |

|                               |    |  |                 |
|-------------------------------|----|--|-----------------|
| Results of individual studies | 20 | For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot. | 9-13, table 1   |
| Synthesis of results          | 21 | Present the main results of the review. If meta-analyses done, include for each, confidence intervals and measures of consistency.   | 9-13 figure 2-4 |
| Risk of bias across studies   | 22 | Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).  | 9-13            |
| Additional analysis           | 23 | Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).  | 10-15, figure 3 |
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>             |    |  |                 |
| Summary of evidence           | 24 | Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).                     | 14-19           |
| Limitations                   | 25 | Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).  | 18-19           |
| Conclusions                   | 26 | Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.  | 19              |
| <b>FUNDING</b>                |    |  |                 |
| Funding                       | 27 | Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.   | 25              |

From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(6): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

For more information, visit: [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org).

## **Supplemental Table S7: search strategy and selection criteria.**

### **Detailed Search Strategy**

#### **1) PubMed (through December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017)**

**Keyword:** (dementia) AND (statins or statin intervention or statin)

**Limited:** Human” and “English written”

**Results:** 632

#### **2) ScienceDirect (through December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017)**

**Keyword:** (dementia) AND (statins or statin intervention or statin)

**Filter:** none

**Results:** 2766

#### **3) Psychology and Behavior Sciences Collection (from Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 1988 to December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017)**

**Keyword:** (dementia) AND (statins or statin intervention or statin)

**Limited:** n/a

**Results:** 354

#### **4) ClinicalTrials.gov (through December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017)**

**Keyword:** dementia AND statin

**Limited:** n/a

**Results:** 19

#### **5) Cochrane library (through December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017)**

**Keyword:** (dementia) AND (statins or statin intervention or statin)

**Limited:** n/a

**Results:** 53



**Additional records identified through other sources**

**Results: 27**