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Project Title

Bilingualism and Cognitive Status in Community Living Canadians

Project Summary

Speaking several languages may be protective against cognitive decline. In studies of small groups of people, bilingual and multilingual people had better scores on cognitive tests. However, studies done in groups of community-living people show little protective effect on the risk for dementia, after accounting for the effect of education. This may be because of different ways of measuring language, or differences in the measure of memory loss or diagnosis of dementia. We will look at the effect of speaking one or more language on cognitive test scores in participants of the Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging. Specifically, we will determine if people who speak more than one language have better scores on standardized tests of memory, verbal fluency, and recall. We will also determine if this is affected by education, or the number of languages spoken.

Keywords

Bilingualism, multilingualism, cognition, cognitive status