

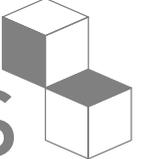


PHRN Population
Health
Research
Network



Statin use and joint symptoms

www.phrn.org.au

NCRIS 
National Research
Infrastructure for Australia

An Australian Government Initiative

The Research

The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH) is an ongoing broad study which looks at the health and well-being of women in Australia. The ALSWH is made up of many sub-studies. One of the sub-studies looked at middle aged and older women's use of statins (cholesterol lowering medications) and whether they prevent the development of osteoarthritis. The researchers wanted to find out if women who took statins experienced less joint pain and/or stiffness. The researchers found that:

- 31.3% of middle-aged women and 51.5% of older women in the sub-study took statin
- Women taking statin did not report a reduction in new joint symptoms such as pain and/or stiffness.

HOW DID THE PHRN INFRASTRUCTURE HELP?

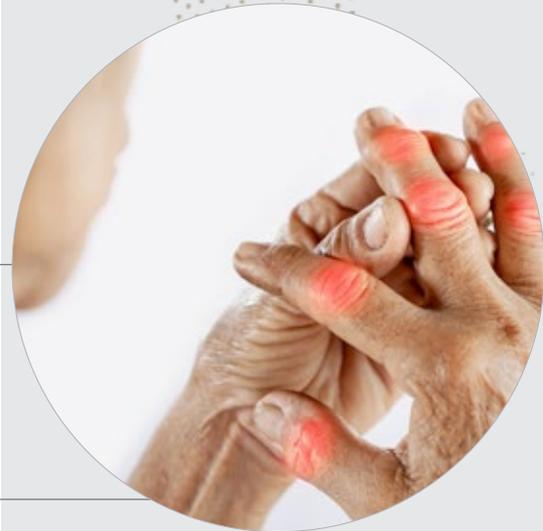
The AIHW annually links the ALSWH data with Medicare (Medicare Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceuticals Benefits Scheme) and National Death Index for the research team to analyse.

AUTHORS/CONTRIBUTORS

Peeters G, Tett SE, Conaghan PG, Mishra GD, Dobson AJ.

REFERENCE

Peeters G, Tett SE, Conaghan PG, Mishra GD, Dobson AJ. Is statin use associated with new joint-related symptoms, physical function, and quality of life? Results from two population-based cohorts of women. *Arthritis care & research*. 2015;67(1):13-20. Accessed 15 April 2016 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/acr.22389/full>



Privacy and security

Privacy protection and data security lie at the heart of the Population Health Research Network. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information by government agencies and other agencies are bound by strict legislative and regulatory conditions. Researchers wishing to access linked data must also adhere to stringent conditions, including ethics approval, data custodian approval and the development of a detailed data security plan.

Researchers are typically given access to a linked data set put together to meet the specific needs of their project. This de-identified data includes only the minimum information required for the research, such as age rather than date of birth.

Government agencies handle personal information in highly-secure environments. Data is delivered to researchers through a secure remote access facility, ensuring no information is stored on the researcher's personal computer or their institutional network. Researchers cannot export raw data from this system, only their analyses, and these are checked.

Researchers must only use the data for the approved purpose and are not allowed to link any other information. At the conclusion of the project, all data must be destroyed or returned.

Penalties for researchers and government employees can include criminal conviction, jail time or substantial fines. In the more than ten years since the network began, there has never been a breach.

