

The Whitehall II Study

<https://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/el/cohort/the-whitehall-ii-study/>

Cohort Acronym

Whitehall II

Cohort type

General population-based cohort

Disease

Dementia (unclassified)

Participant type

No diagnosis

Profile

Recruitment Period 1985

Sample size at start or planned sample size if still recruiting

Estimated Current Sample Size 7,735

Age at Recruitment 35-55

Gender Male and Female

Abstract

The Whitehall II Study was established in 1985 to investigate the importance of socioeconomic circumstances for health by following a cohort of working men and women aged 35-55 at enrolment. Participants have taken part in twelve data collection phases, seven of which have included a medical screening. The aim of the study is to understand the causes of age-related heterogeneity in health.

By combining the existing 30 years of data on social circumstances, risk factors and chronic disease with new clinical measures of cognitive function, mental disorders and physical functioning, Whitehall II has been transformed interdisciplinary study of ageing. In addition to providing insights into individual and social differences in the development of frailty, disability, dependence, and dementia, the study helps in the determination of optimal time windows and targets for interventions that maximise the potential for healthy-ageing and independent living.

Country United Kingdom

Contact details

Institution name University College, London

Website <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/whitehallII>

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Funders (Core support) Medical Research Council

British Heart Foundation

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Variables Collected

Brain related measures:

N/A

Functional rating:

Individual psychological

Anthropometric:

Blood pressure, Height, Waist circumference, Weight

Physical:

Cardiovascular, Musculoskeletal, Respiratory

Biological samples:

Blood, Saliva, Urine

Genotyping:

Gene screening

Brain imaging:

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

Brain banking:

N/A

Lifestyle:

Alcohol, Dietary habits, Physical activity, Smoking

Socio-economic:

Education, Ethnic group, Family circumstances, Housing and accommodation, Income and finances, Informal support, Marital status, Occupation and employment, Unpaid care

Health service utilisation:

Formal health and social care service utilisation including private care