

Basic Neurological Test May Identify High-Risk Stroke Candidates

It shows that by looking for subtle problems such as reduced reflexes or unstable posture it would be possible to show which healthy elderly people are at the highest risk of death or stroke. Those with over three of these abnormalities, which include tremors and differences in hand strength, were more likely to die. Minor mental problems often spur doctors to send older, apparently healthy patients for brain tests to check for atrophy, tumours, strokes or other neurological problems.

Previous research has linked some of these to physical problems and the latest findings may provide another tool to treat mental decline in an ageing population.

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