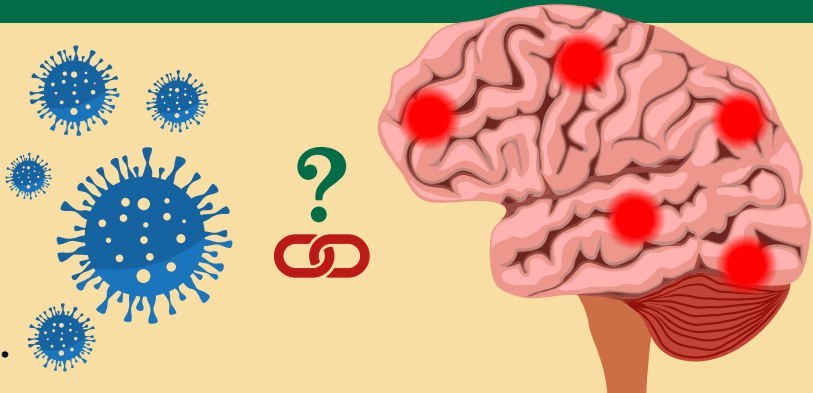


Incident Herpes Zoster and Risk of Dementia

There is limited evidence suggesting that herpes zoster (HZ), caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus, contributes to dementia through neuroinflammation, neural damage, and cerebral vasculopathy.



Do patients with HZ have an increased risk of developing dementia?

Danish population-based matched cohort study to determine the association between HZ and dementia in

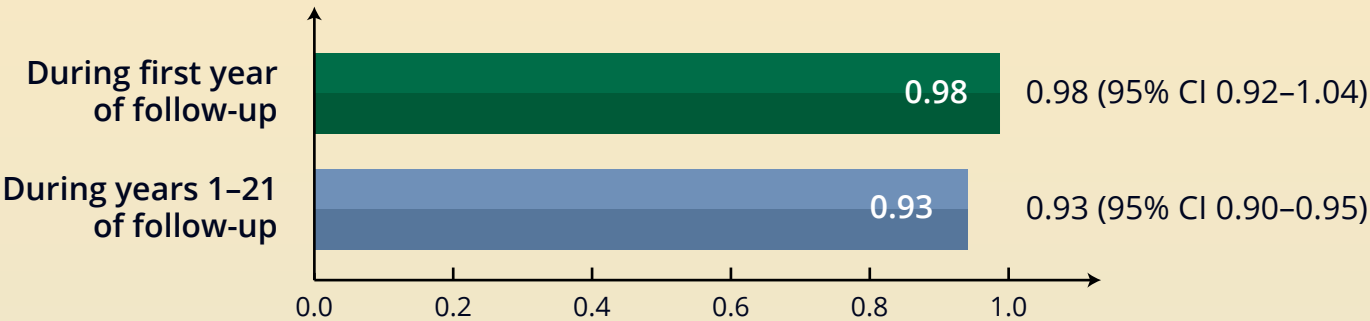
Patients with HZ aged ≥ 40 years (n = 247,305)



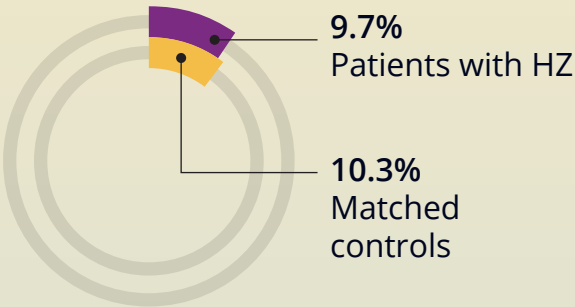
Comparison cohort from the general population (n = 1,235,890)

Risk of all-cause dementia

Hazard ratio (HR) in patients with HZ vs matched controls



Diagnosis of dementia based on inverse probability-weighted cumulative incidence values



Long-term risk of dementia

After 1-year follow-up



Population with central nervous system infections
Increased risk
HR = 1.94 (95% CI 0.78–4.80)

Other subpopulations
None/slightly decreased risk

Patients with HZ are not at an increased risk of developing dementia