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Cognitive function and walking velocity in people with dementia; a comparison of backward and forward walking

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Highlights

- Forward **and** backward walking are important in daily life.
- **Global cognition is related to backward but not forward walking.**
- **The challenge of backward walking may explain its association to global cognition.**
- Walking aids may attenuate the association between backward walking and cognition.
- Executive function appears to be important to forward and backward walking

Abstract

How forward and backward walking, both central to everyday life, relate to cognition are relatively unexplored in people with dementia. This study aimed to investigate if forward and backward walking velocity respectively, associated with global cognition and executive function in people with dementia, and whether the association differed according to walking aid use or dementia type. Using a cross-sectional design, 161 participants (77% women), a

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