



**Down's Syndrome
Association**

A Registered Charity No. 1061474

Annual Health Check Information for GPs

Hypercholesterolaemia

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Below is Down's syndrome specific information. The information is for GPs and is to be used alongside DSA's Adult Health Book.

Lipid profiles in the population with Down's syndrome (DS) mirror the general population, but evidence for resultant atherosclerosis is limited, perhaps in part because of lower life-expectancy to date – however individuals with atheroma and myocardial infarction have been documented. Dementia is the dominant concern in elderly patients with DS, and there are theoretical links between hypercholesterolaemia and Dementia. Further, one study has documented an association between hypercholesterolaemia in DS and a doubling of the risk of dementia.

While historic data suggested that DS patients are protected from atheroma, the evidence base available is not sufficiently strong to suggest treating DS patients as a separate group and standard NICE recommendations used in the general population should be followed

<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/11982/40689/40689.pdf>

The Down's Syndrome Association (DSA) is the only organisation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland which supports people with Down's syndrome at every stage of life.

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