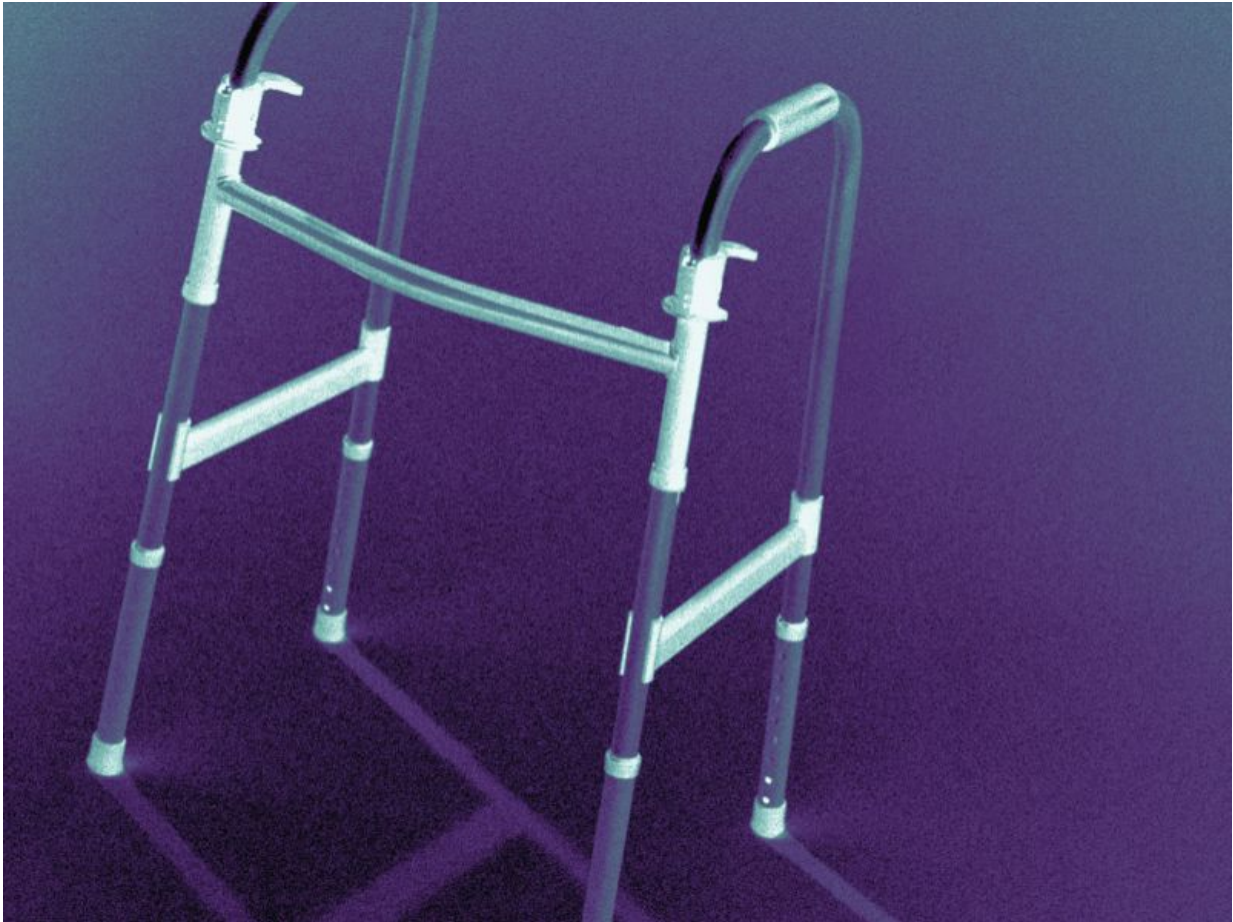


Slow processing speed predicts falls in elderly

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(HealthDay)—Slow processing speed predicts future falls in older adults with a history of falls, according to a study published online April 8 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Jennifer C. Davis, Ph.D., from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and colleagues assessed baseline predictors of [future](#) falls among 288 community-dwelling [older adults](#) (aged ≥ 70 years) with a history of at least one fall resulting in [medical attention](#) in the previous 12 months. Participants were prospectively evaluated for 12 months.

The researchers found that processing speed was the most consistent predictor of future falls. Poorer processing speed predicted a greater number of total, indoor, outdoor, and noninjurious falls, as well as a greater likelihood of experiencing at least one mild or severe injurious fall.

"Poorer performance on the processing speed factor, a trainable factor, was independently associated with the most costly type of falls: injurious falls," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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