

GET GROOVING

Dancing gives you aerobic and multicomponent exercise and can benefit fitness, physical function, balance and cognition.

Dancing

Dancing is considered a varied multicomponent exercise as well as cardiovascular exercise as it combines aerobic physical activity with balance. (1, 2) Dancing can be an accessible way of getting exercise and can be adapted to different abilities, fitness levels and cultures.(3) Different dance styles include ballet, jazz, tap, ballroom, cultural, contemporary, pop and line dancing, to name a few.(3)

Guidelines

The UK Chief Medical Officers’ and the World Health Organization guidelines:(4, 5)

- If you are aged 65 or older, as part of your weekly physical activity, you should do varied multicomponent physical activity that:
 - Focuses on functional balance and strength training
 - At moderate or greater intensity
 - On 3 or more days a week.
- All adults should aim to get 150 to 300 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week; or 75 to 150 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week.
- New to exercise? Start by doing small amounts and gradually, over time, increase how often, how intensely and for how long you exercise.
- For those age 65 years and over, be as physically active as your abilities allow and adjust how much effort you put into physical activity based on your fitness and strength levels.

GOLDSTER★ **Points and Evidence Levels for this Activity**

Domain	Impact Strength	Points	Information on Evidence	Evidence Type	Evidence Level
Physical	Medium	2	In older people, varied multicomponent exercise has been shown to have a medium impact on improved functional capacity and falls prevention.(4, 5) Dancing has been shown to have a medium impact on improving flexibility, muscular strength, mobility, endurance and balance.(3, 6, 7)	Guideline Systematic Review	Moderate Moderate
Cognitive	Medium	2	Evidence on dancing in older people has also shown a medium impact on cognitive ability.(3, 8)	Systematic Review	Moderate
Emotional	Medium	2	Evidence for the benefits of regular physical activity shows medium impact on reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression and improving sleep in older people.(4) Further research is needed on dancing in maintaining general mental health in older people.	Guideline	Moderate

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References

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