

Table S3. Baseline characteristics of the study population in CHARLS (n=18,562).

Arthritis	No (n=12,220)	Yes (n=6342)	Total (n=18,562)	P
age	57.00 [52.00;64.00]	58.00 [52.00;65.00]	58.00 [52.00;64.00]	0
gender				0
- No	5785 (47.34%)	3717 (58.61%)	9502 (51.19%)	
- Yes	6435 (52.66%)	2625 (41.39%)	9060 (48.81%)	
rural				0
- No	5163 (42.25%)	2281 (35.97%)	7444 (40.10%)	
- Yes	7057 (57.75%)	4061 (64.03%)	11,118 (59.90%)	
marital_status				0
- Married	10,926 (89.41%)	5523 (87.09%)	16,449 (88.62%)	
- Never married/Other	1121 (9.17%)	724 (11.42%)	1845 (9.94%)	
- Separated/Divorced/Widowed	173 (1.42%)	95 (1.50%)	268 (1.44%)	
education				0
- Primary or below	10,441 (85.44%)	5829 (91.91%)	16,270 (87.65%)	
- Secondary	1478 (12.09%)	448 (7.06%)	1926 (10.38%)	
- Tertiary	301 (2.46%)	65 (1.02%)	366 (1.97%)	
memory_score	0.22 [-0.67;0.81]	-0.08 [-0.67;0.52]	-0.08 [-0.67;0.81]	0
orientation_score	-0.04 [-0.04;0.87]	-0.04 [-0.95;0.87]	-0.04 [-0.95;0.87]	0
executive_score	0.28 [-0.32;0.89]	0.28 [-0.93;0.89]	0.28 [-0.93;0.89]	0
cognition_total_score	0.27 [-0.49;0.88]	0.02 [-0.74;0.64]	0.16 [-0.60;0.77]	0
drinking_status				0
- No	7708 (63.09%)	4388 (69.19%)	12,096 (65.17%)	
- Yes	4510 (36.91%)	1954 (30.81%)	6464 (34.83%)	
smoking_status				0
- No	8168 (68.45%)	4610 (74.16%)	12,778 (70.41%)	
- Yes	3765 (31.55%)	1606 (25.84%)	5371 (29.59%)	
bmi	23.19 [20.84;25.71]	23.36 [20.93;26.17]	23.25 [20.88;25.91]	0.001
hypertension				0
- No	9054 (74.40%)	4318 (68.87%)	13,372 (72.52%)	
- Yes	3115 (25.60%)	1952 (31.13%)	5067 (27.48%)	
diabetes				0.012
- No	11,283 (93.02%)	5747 (91.98%)	17,030 (92.67%)	
- Yes	847 (6.98%)	501 (8.02%)	1348 (7.33%)	
heart_disease				0
- No	10,913 (89.72%)	5131 (81.81%)	16,044 (87.03%)	
- Yes	1250 (10.28%)	1141 (18.19%)	2391 (12.97%)	
stroke				0
- No	10,092 (97.96%)	5300 (96.75%)	15,392 (97.54%)	
- Yes	210 (2.04%)	178 (3.25%)	388 (2.46%)	
cancer				0.031
- No	12,057 (99.02%)	6193 (98.66%)	18,250 (98.90%)	
- Yes	119 (0.98%)	84 (1.34%)	203 (1.10%)	
psychiatric_disorder				0
- No	12,062 (99.11%)	6173 (98.12%)	18,235 (98.78%)	
- Yes	108 (0.89%)	118 (1.88%)	226 (1.22%)	
depression_score	6.00 [3.00;10.00]	9.00 [5.00;14.00]	7.00 [3.00;12.00]	0

BMI: body mass index; CHARLS: China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study