**Study finds degree-educated people susceptible to brain tumour**

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New research appears to contradict the long-recognised link ­between education and health, with degree-educated people found to be particularly susceptible to the most common type of malignant brain tumour.

A study of more than 4.3 million Swedes has linked univer­sity education with gliomas, a deadly group of cancers that form in the glial cells that ­cushion neurons.

Tertiary qualified men proved 19 per cent more likely to have been diagnosed with gliomas than those with no post-school education, according to a retrospective study of Swedes born between 1911 and 1961.

University educated women appeared at even greater risk, proving 23 per cent more likely to develop gliomas than less educated women. They were also 16 per cent more likely to experience non-cancerous tumours known as meningiomas.

Wealthy, professional and married men also appeared more prone to gliomas, questioning years of research findings linking low socio-economic and single status with poorer health outcomes.

Lead author Amal Khanolkar said the findings were reliable, with the sample’s sheer size providing the “statistical power” needed to identify risk factors in rare diseases like brain tumours. Sweden is renowned for long-term population-level studies that generate data on medical and social trends.

But Dr Khanolkar, an epidemiologist with University College London, said the results were consistent with the idea that higher education equated with better health. “We believe detection bias could be one reason for our findings,” he said.

“Higher educated people are perhaps more likely to recognise symptoms and seek medical care earlier. The increased risk in married men is (also) consistent with previous studies — partners are perhaps more likely to notice symptoms in their spouses and ensure timely medical access.”

Dr Khanolkar said there was no evidence that using one’s grey matter triggered brain tumours, or that people susceptible to ­gliomas were also attracted to higher education.

The research was published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.