

Men who look good stay sharp

HANDSOME men are more likely to remain quick-witted into old age, a study has found.

It is thought a person's face contains clues to their overall health, including their mental sharpness.

This means those with symmetrical faces, equating with good looks, are more likely to be alert in old age.

Edinburgh University researchers made the link by studying more than 200 pensioners whose mental ability has been tracked during their lives.

Digital photos were taken of the elderly people and the level of facial symmetry was assessed.

The volunteers, all aged 83, were subjected to tests designed to gauge their mental sharpness.

The researchers showed the symmetry of a person's face was not linked to their intelligence at the age of 11 or 79 but it was strongly related to male mental alertness at the age of 83.

Researcher Dr Lars Penke said: 'Facial symmetry is an indicator of developmental state, the idea being that your left and right side should be under control of the same developmental mechanism.'

