

A new strategy to improve older adults' memory using cueing

Submission date 02/05/2013	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 22/05/2013	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 23/05/2013	Condition category Nervous System Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Pre-stimulus cues seem to increase the ability to process things better and faster. However, the impact this may have on memory in older adults, has received little or no attention. Our study investigates whether pre-stimulus cueing has any effects on older adults memory and to what extent.

Who can participate?

The PRESTIcue study recruits about 30 younger (age>18 years) and 30 older (age>60 years) adults from the local community.

What does the study involve?

Participants will be invited to study a series of words that will be presented on a computer screen. Some of the words will be preceded by a cue (e.g. a signalling picture), while some others will be preceded by a blank screen. After a brief retention interval, they will be asked to recall all the words they can remember. All participants will study words with both pre-stimulus cueing and no cueing. The session will last about 40 minutes.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

We expect immediate and direct benefits on participants' memory as they should remember items that will be preceded by a cue better, when compared to items with no cue. This will indicate that pre-stimulus cueing may be a useful strategy to be used in older adults everyday memory tasks. No risks are involved.

Where is the study run from?

The PRESTIcue study has been set up by the Psychogerontology Centre at the University of Chieti.

When is study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

Recruitment starts in mid-May 2013. The study is expected to end by July 2013.

Who is funding the study?

University of Chieti (Italy)

Who is the main contact?
Professor Nicola Mammarella
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Prof Nicola Mammarella

Contact details
Department of Psychological Sciences
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
N/A

Study information

Scientific Title
Improving older adults memory with a PRE-STImulus cueing-based behavioral intervention: a controlled pilot study

Acronym
PRESTIcue

Study objectives
We hypothesise that older adults memory will be improved after a pre-stimulus cueing intervention vs no cueing. The null hypothesis is that there will be no difference in memory between conditions; this may arise if older adults are not sensitive to pre-stimulus cueing information.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Departmental Ethics Board; 22/05/2013; ref. number 001

Study design
Controlled pilot study

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Aging and memory difficulties

Interventions

The study will involve 15 male and 15 female younger adults and 15 male and 15 female older adults. Participation will be tested on a memory task. This task will include a study phase during which a series of words will be either preceded by a cue (intervention trials) vs. no-cue (no intervention). After the study phase, participants will be asked to recall as many of the studied words they can remember. Male participants will be assigned to standard 12-week vs 10-week vs 8-week inter-donation intervals and female participants to 16-week vs 14-week vs 12-week intervals.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Cognitive: memory abilities measured immediately following the experimental stimuli presentation in a single session

Key secondary outcome(s)

No secondary outcome will be considered

Completion date

31/07/2013

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Age range for younger adults >18 < 30 years
2. Age range for older adults >60 < 80 years
3. Half of participants will be male, the other half female
4. All participants must be native Italian speakers
5. Willing to participate in the study

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Participants with history of head trauma, alcohol or drug abuse, or neurological or psychiatric disorders
2. Participants reporting taking medication affecting the central nervous system

Date of first enrolment

30/05/2013

Date of final enrolment

31/07/2013

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

Italy

Study participating centre

Department of Psychological Sciences

Chieti

Italy

66100

Sponsor information**Organisation**

University of Chieti (Università degli Studi 'G. d'Annunzio' Chieti e Pescara) (Italy)

ROR

<https://ror.org/00qjgza05>

Funder(s)**Funder type**

University/education

Funder Name

University of Chieti (Italy)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes