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Mnemic neglect in dementia

Submission date
08/01/2015

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
12/01/2015

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
09/02/2023

Condition category
Nervous System Diseases

[X] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
An area of research called "mnemic neglect" has shown that when given information that in some way threatens our self-concept (our own view of ourselves), we tend to remember less of this information later on. If we are told exactly the same information, but asked to imagine that it applies to someone else called "Chris", then we tend to remember more about it. These findings suggest that the amount of information that we remember often depends on the extent to which this information, then we can help them to remember more about it. This study will look at how mnemic neglect operates amongst people with dementia using research techniques which have already been used to study the phenomenon in people without dementia. If the findings are similar then we may be able to find better ways of talking to people with dementia about their illness.

Who can participate?
Patients with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease, Vascular Dementia or a mixed form of these from memory clinics from three sites in South West England

What does the study involve?
Participants are asked to carry out a number of memory tests to examine:
Study A - recall of neutral versus illness related words
Study B - recall of negative and positive behavioural statements
Study C - recall of statements related to dementia
Participants taking part in in studies B and C are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Those in group 1 are asked to imagine the statements as “applies to yourself". Those in group 2 are asked to imagine that the statement “applies to someone called Chris”. Study A and B take roughly an hour to complete including consent and debrief. Study C takes around 50 minutes to complete including consent and debrief.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Advantages of taking part in the study include adding to scientific knowledge about dementia and how information about diagnosis is communicated. Disadvantages of taking part include memory tasks that may be upsetting or cause some participants to feel tired.

Where is the study run from?
University of the West of England, Bristol (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
December 2014 to October 2016

Who is funding the study?
Alzheimer's Society (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Miss Emily Dodd

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
17952

Study information

Scientific Title
Mnemic neglect in people affected with mild Alzheimer's disease and dementia: replicating and extending findings from experimental social psychology

Study objectives
There are three studies within this project, each with their own question:
Study A - do people with dementia show a preferential recall of neutral rather than illness-related words? Study B - do people with dementia show mnemic neglect?
Study C - is there a bias towards recall descriptions of dementia for the self, compared to descriptions of dementia relating to others?

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
NRES Committee South West – Frenchay, 18/12/2014, ref: 14/SW/1142

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Both; Interventional and Observational; Design type: Not specified, Case-controlled study

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Topic: Dementias and neurodegeneration; Subtopic: Dementia; Disease: Dementia

Interventions
Participants have either been diagnosed with a form of dementia or are healthy volunteers (control group). Participants are asked to carry out a number of memory tests to examine:
Study A - recall of neutral versus illness related words
Study B - recall of negative and positive behavioural statements
Study C - recall of statements related to dementia

Study A is a simple memory test of words with no randomisation, everyone gets the same word list. Participants taking part in in studies B and C are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Those in group 1 are asked to imagine the statements as “applies to yourself". Those in group 2 are asked to imagine that the statement “applies to someone called Chris”. Study A and B take roughly an hour to complete including consent and debrief. Study C takes around 50 minutes to complete including consent and debrief.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

Current primary outcome measures as of 11/01/2017:
Study A: the mean number of dementia and non-dementia words recalled
Study B: the mean number of behaviour statements recalled (central or peripheral and positive or negative)
Study C: the mean number of high threat and low threat dementia statements recalled
There was only one timepoint to this study, the research appointment lasted up to an hour and the method was to simply count up the number of correct words/behaviours/statements recalled or recognised by each participant

Previous primary outcome measures:
Number of words, statements, descriptions recalled:
1. Straight after presentation
2. After a 2 minute delay

Key secondary outcome(s)
Current secondary outcome measures as of 11/01/2017:
All three studies: recognition scores and intrusion errors
There was only one timepoint to this study, the research appointment lasted up to an hour and method was to simply count up the number of correct words/behaviours/statements recalled or recognised by each participant

Previous secondary outcome measures:
Recognition of words, statements and descriptions after recall tasks:
1. Straight after presentation
2. After a 2 minute delay

Completion date
01/10/2016

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. A diagnosis made within the previous 18 months by a consultant psychiatrist of either probable Alzheimer's disease according to the NINCDS-ADRDA criteria (McKhann et al, 1984) or probable vascular dementia according to the NINDS--IREN criteria (Román et al, 1993) or a mixed form of these
2. Mild levels of cognitive impairment (e.g. MOCA score over 12 or equivalent score on an alternative assessment tool)
3. The capacity to consent to be part of the research
4. Sufficient communication skills to be able to take part in the research

Control group:
Healthy volunteers recruited from Join Dementia Research (JDR) register, students and staff at the University of the West of England

Participant type(s)
Mixed

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 Years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. They have a significant history of pre--morbid psychiatric problems
2. They have a diagnosis of dementia with Lewy Bodies (McKeith, 2002) or frontal--temporal dementia (Snowden, Neary and Mann (2002)
3. If deficits in short--term memory are not a primary cause of disability

Date of first enrolment
01/02/2015

Date of final enrolment
31/07/2016

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
University of the West of England, Bristol
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences
Glenside Campus
Blackberry Hill
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Sponsor information

Organisation
University of the West of England, Bristol

ROR
https://ror.org/02nwg5t34

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
Alzheimer's Society

Alternative Name(s)
alzheimerssoc

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Associations and societies (private and public)

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The current data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary
Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/08/2018		Yes	No
Results article		26/03/2019	09/02/2023	Yes	No
Basic results		15/11/2016	11/01/2017	No	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No