

Mnemonic neglect and past memories in dementia

Submission date 02/11/2016	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered
Registration date 16/11/2016	Overall study status Completed	☐ Protocol
Last Edited 30/12/2022	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	☐ Statistical analysis plan
		☒ Results
		☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Dementia is a common condition in the aging population. People with dementia have difficulties with mental processes such as memory, language, reasoning and identifying people and objects, which become progressively worse over time. Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia. It is a growing problem worldwide, affecting millions of people over the age of 60. In some previous research it was found that the way in which information is given about a diagnosis of dementia affects how well this information is remembered. Another study showed that recalling past memories can improve how people feel about themselves, for example by increasing self-esteem. The aim of this study is to combine these two projects to see whether recalling a past memory beforehand leads to better recall of information about an illness.

Who can participate?

Patients who have recently been diagnosed with dementia.

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Those in the first group are asked to remember a nostalgic memory and those in the second group are asked to remember an ordinary event in the past. All participants complete questionnaires asking them about how they feel before taking part in a memory test. This involves a researcher reading out 24 illness-related statements in four blocks of six and participants are asked to remember as many as possible after each block.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no direct benefits for participants taking part. There are no major risks in taking part in this study. Some of the statements to remember might be upsetting to some people but the researcher will support the participant if this happens. The participant will be fully debriefed after the study and the researcher will ensure the participant is feeling ok before finishing the appointment.

Where is the study run from?

The RICE Centre (UK)

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

April 2016 to May 2017

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

Who is the main contact?
Professor Richard Cheston
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
32203

Study information

Scientific Title
A feasibility study to test whether using past memories to increase psychological resources leads to better recall of information about dementia

Study objectives

Hypotheses:

1. Participants in the nostalgia (vs. control) condition will recall a higher proportion of high threatening dementia related statements compared to less threatening statements
2. Participants in the nostalgia (vs. control) condition will have higher self-esteem, social connectedness, and meaning in life
3. Recall of highly threatening statements in the nostalgia condition (vs control) will not be associated with increased levels of anxiety
4. There will be no differences in recognition between participants in the nostalgia and control

arms

5. Participants in the nostalgia (vs control) condition will make fewer protective compared to threatening intrusion errors

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

East of Scotland Research Ethics Service REC 2, 30/08/2016, ref: 16/ES/0097

Study design

Randomised; Interventional; Design type: Process of Care, Psychological & Behavioural

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Specialty: Dementias and neurodegeneration, Primary sub-specialty: Dementia; UKCRC code/
Disease: Neurological/ Other degenerative diseases of the nervous system

Interventions

Participants will be randomly allocated to either the intervention condition (n=15) or the control condition (n=15).

Intervention condition: Participants will be instructed to bring to mind a nostalgic memory

Control condition: Participants will be instructed to bring to mind an ordinary event in the past

Participants in both groups will complete questionnaires to measure psychological resources and complete a nostalgia manipulation check. Next participants will take part in the memory test; the recall of 24 statements related to dementia. From previous research half have been rated as high threat to identity and half rated as low threat to identity. These will be read out in four groups of six statements. Recall will be assessed immediately after each of the four groups and after a two-minute distracter task. Finally a recognition test will follow in which participants are provided with 48 statements and asked to identify the 24 they have previously heard. This research takes place within one session and lasts for approximately 45 minutes.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

Number of highly threatening and low threatening related statements recalled is measured by counting the correct number of statements recalled the single study appointment.

Key secondary outcome(s))

All outcomes are measured at the single study appointment.

1. Psychological resources are measured using State Functions of Nostalgia Scale
2. Recognition is measured by counting the number of correct statements participants recognise

from a list of statements they have and haven't heard previously

3. Intrusion errors (protective of self/threatening to self) are measured by counting the number of errors participants make in recall (protective error = valence reversal of high threat statements, repetition of low threat statements; threatening error = valence reversal of low threat statements, repetition of high threat statements)

Completion date

31/05/2017

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. A diagnosis made within the previous 18 months of either probable Alzheimer's disease or probable Vascular Dementia or a mixed form of these
3. 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
5. Aged 18 years and over

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. A significant history of premorbid psychiatric problems
2. A diagnosis of dementia with Lewy Bodies (McKeith, 2002) or Frontaltemporal dementia (Snowden, Neary and Mann (2002))
3. If deficits in short term memory are not a primary cause of disability

Date of first enrolment

01/10/2016

Date of final enrolment

28/02/2017

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

The RICE Centre

Building 8

Royal United Hospital

Combe Park

Bath

United Kingdom

BA1 3NG

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of the West of England

ROR

<https://ror.org/02nwg5t34>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Charity

Funder Name

Alzheimer's Research UK

Alternative Name(s)

Alzheimer's Research Trust, AlzheimersResearch UK, AlzResearchUK, ARUK

Funding Body Type

Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

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	01/04/2018		Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Other publications		10/06/2021	30/12/2022	Yes	No
Participant information sheet	version V02	16/08/2016	16/11/2016	No	Yes