What is the Lived Experience of Older Migrants with Mild Cognitive Impairment? A Proposed Phenomenological Study

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Why this topic?

- It brings to light my interest in a topic that I’m passionate about.
- Better understand the lived experience of older migrants with MCI.
- Researching a unique topic which is of huge significance for older migrants in NZ.
- Raise awareness about MCI.
- Reduce a gap in knowledge.
Ageing Process

- Ageing is a normal phenomenal process, but can put us at risk of physical /psychological issues & associated such as cognitive problems.

- Our brain is complex, just like the universe, not just one component but different systems, but all connected.

- Control our thinking, emotions, executive functions, judgement, memory, intellect etc.

- Not all parts are affected same time: Selective vulnerability one or more areas affected at different times.

- One aspect of ageing can lead to a decline in cognitive functioning. For many it’s a natural progression of a neurogenerative basis.

- 'Houston, we have a problem'
What is Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)?

MCI is not a disease, it is not dementia yet! and does not necessarily interfere with someone's daily functions and activities
MCI represents an intermediate (prodromal) state of cognitive decline seen in ageing but not fulfilling the criteria for Alzheimer’s dementia (AD)\(^1\)
Unlike common misconceptions: thinking can improve with time, ageing or cognitive abilities can even strengthen over time\(^{11}\)
Pathology of MCI

- Plaques (Beta Amyloid) are abnormal level of a protein substance around the neurons / space stained with chemicals.
- Tangles are nerve cells scrubbed up with a different kind of fibres and proteins (Beta Amyloid or Tau).{11}
- When these two substances build-up, hence it explains our vulnerability to develop MCI and overtime develop AD.
Pathology of MCI

Hippocampus theory
(memory, emotions, and motivation)

Abnormal cognitive changes, similar to AD, with plaques and tangles seen as early as 10-20 years before development of AD

Plaques and Tangles are seen in the passageway leading to the hippocampus, which increases over time.

Hence, why we have so many stages of AD
Common misconceptions: all those with MCI develops dementia

Summary of facts:

- Approximately 30% to 40% of those with MCI improves over time\(^4\)
- About 15% -60% will slowly declines and may develop AD\(^5,6\)
- 20% - 60% will remain cognitive impaired (MCI) for life\(^6\)
Silent phase: Brain changes without measurable symptoms. Individual may notice changes, but not by others or testing.

Cognition becomes a concern to self or others. One or more domain significantly impaired. ADL preserved.

Cognition significantly impaired to affect day to day activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psycho-social aspects of living with MCI</th>
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<td>There are specific stressors associated with migration and the resettlement process among different cultures</td>
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<td>Living with MCI means disengagement from social activities, social disconnection, isolation &amp; poor quality of life</td>
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<td>Family members who are caring for sufferers of MCI face considerable socioeconomic burden and isolation</td>
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<td>Loneliness, trauma and physical health issues is a contributing factor for MCI</td>
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<td>Cultural factors, language barriers and geographical location attitudes, religious teachings can all affect cognitive functioning in older migrants</td>
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<td>Cross-cultural differences, lack of understanding or acceptance of MCI because of its perception in the respective countries of origin</td>
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<td>Stigma associated with MCI similar to Dementia i.e. labelling, stereotyping, separation, loss of status, and discrimination</td>
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<td>Challenges with healthcare engagement were reported among older migrants during the initial stages of adjustment in New Zealand &amp; lack of culturally appropriate information about MCI</td>
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Research Design

Research Question:
What are the experiences of older migrants with mild cognitive impairment in New Zealand?

Methodology

Phenomenology (Heidegger) is the philosophy that will guide the research methodology, but more so through the lens of van Manen. Hermeneutic sits well with this research, as it explores the subjective lived experiences of a phenomenon & how one can interpret these experiences as well as ascertaining any concealed meanings in an individual’s experiences.
Research Design

Methods

➢ Purposively selected participants to be interviewed (approx. 15), from Auckland’s DHB area

➢ Self referrals from advertisements locally, Alzheimer’s society, Age concern, & other NGOs, referrals from primary / secondary care professionals

➢ Voluntary & informed consent will be required. May have family support

➢ Anonymity and confidentiality of participants will be maintained

Ethics

➢ AUT Research Ethics Committee (AUTEC) 18/114 on 29/10/18

➢ Locality agreement with WDHB & CMDHB
Inclusion / exclusion criteria

➢ Older migrants of all genders and ethnicities residing in community dwellings (Inc. retirement villages) in Auckland between 1 to 10 years
➢ Aged 55 and over
➢ Diagnosed with MCI for over one year
➢ Have conversational English language

➢ Candidates with schizophrenia / bipolar illnesses and those undergoing physical or psychiatric treatment are excluded
Data Collection & Data Analysis

Data will be collected through individual, semi-structured interviews to capture accounts of older migrants’ personal experiences of living with MCI.

Interviews will be approximately 1 - 1½ -hour of duration (audio-recorded). Data will be transcribed & inductively interpreted through a phenomenological lenses.
Dissemination plan

• KoAwatea Poster presentation 18-22\textsuperscript{nd} June 2018

• New Zealand Association of Gerontology (NZAG) Conference, Ellerslie, Auckland, 6-8\textsuperscript{th} September 2018

• Unitec Symposium, 11\textsuperscript{th} October 2018

• New Zealand Nursing Organization (NZNO) The College of Gerontology Nursing conference, Hamilton, 5-6\textsuperscript{th} November 2018
Data collection will start November 2018 onwards and completion of study around Dec 2019

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Any Questions Please?
References

Addendum (as per email from Ray Jauny email 20 December 2018)

