



Evolution and future directions for the concept of mild cognitive impairment

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The term mild cognitive impairment has been associated with a varying degree of clinical utility and controversy. The concept has been introduced to try and define a pre-dementia period associated with underlying neurodegenerative pathology and a higher likelihood of the person developing a dementia syndrome. As scientific understanding improves then the definition of MCI rightly adapts, meaning that the MCI concept is prone quite rightly to frequent evolution. We consider that we are a long way away from the concept having evolved to a point where it can be embedded with confidence in clinical practice as a diagnosis but should remain as a term primarily for use in research.

International Psychogeriatrics

Published **Online**

December 13, 2017

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1041610217002812>

