

TREATMENT OF MCI IS AVAILABLE AND SHOULD BE GIVEN?

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The MCI concept has been introduced about 15 years ago. It refers to cognitive impairment that does meet the criteria of dementia. Subjects with MCI have an increased risk to become demented but the risk is dependent on the criteria of MCI used, the setting, and the age of the subject. It will be argued that MCI has many different causes and that any treatment should target these underlying causes. MCI as a syndrome is not a useful therapeutic indication. All drug treatments that have been tested in MCI so far did not show an effect at the primary endpoint. Future research should try to identify the underlying causes of MCI. One of the biggest challenges is to identify subjects with predementia AD among the subjects with MCI. This will open the possibility to treat Alzheimer's disease in an earlier stage than is possible now.