

# Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) and Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE): Cutoff points for mild cognitive impairment and dementia

Team: Bug Attractor

Feier Han, Zhen Wu, Jing Shang, Yutong Zhang, Emory university

Instructor: Prof. Ko Yi-An

- 1 TERMS & INTRODUCTION
- 2 DATA & DATA VALIDATION
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## **Glossary of Abbreviations and Notes**

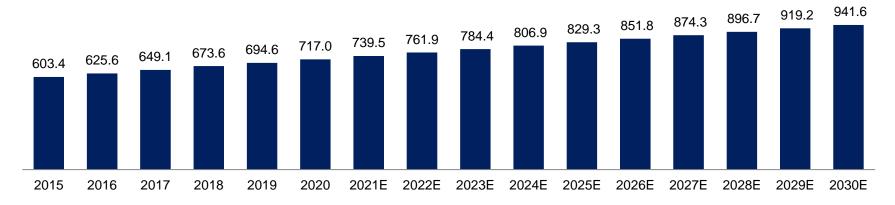
- CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate
- MoCA: Montreal Cognitive Assessment
- MMSE: Mini-Mental State Examination
- MCI: Mild Cognitive Impairment
- NACC: National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center
- AD: Alzheimer's Disease
- ROC: Receiver operating characteristic curve
- AUC: Area under the ROC curve

## Global Aging Population Trend, 2015-2030E

• The world's aging population is experiencing growth in terms of both number and proportion. In 2030, It is estimated that there are 941.6 million people aged over 65 years old in the world, with CAGR is 2.6%.

#### Global Aging Population Trend, 2015-2030E

Period	CAGR
2015-2019	3.6%
2019-2024E	3.0%
2024E-2030E	2.6%



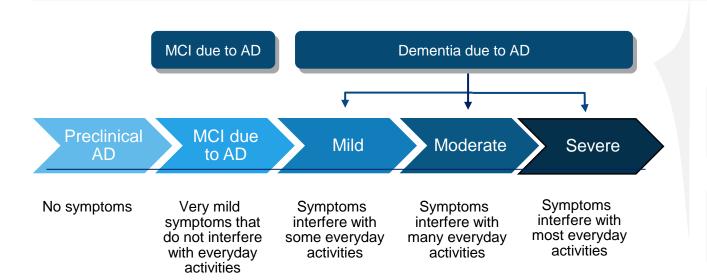
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Source: World Bank, WHO

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## Alzheimer's Disease (AD) Continuum

- As the population ages, the prevalence and incidence of dementia and mild cognitive impairment (MCI) continues to increase, about 5-8% of Americans aged 60 or above are diagnosed with dementia [1], and 6.7-12.5% of them have MCI [2]
- It is critical to diagnose cognitive impairment and prescribe proper interventions in a timely manner.
- Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) are two commonly used cognitive function screening tools to improve the efficiency and accuracy of MCI and dementia diagnosis.





MMSE: The Mini–Mental State Examination or Folstein test is a 30-point questionnaire that is used extensively in clinical and research settings to measure cognitive impairment. [3]

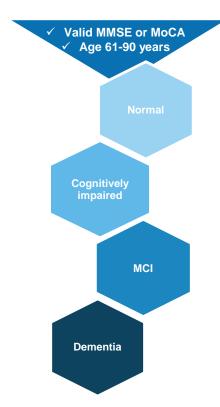
MoCA: The Montreal Cognitive
Assessment is a widely
used screening assessment for
detecting cognitive impairment. It was
validated in the setting of MCI and has
subsequently been adopted in
numerous other settings clinically. [4]

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#### THE NIA ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTERS PROGRAM

## **National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center**



#### 24 subgroups for cutoff point investigation

#### **Age Groups**

- 61-70 Years Old
- 71-80 Years Old
- 81-90 Years Old

#### **Education Groups**

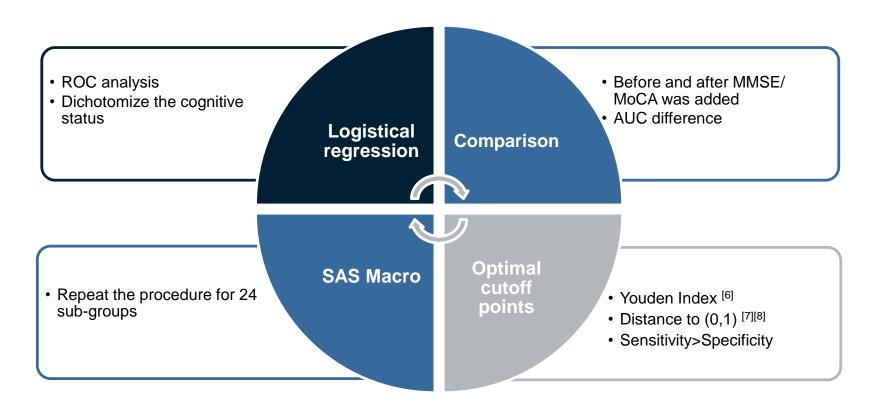
- High school degree or below
- College or bachelor's degree
- Graduate school or master's degree
- Doctorate or above

#### Binary Cognitive Status Variables [5]

- I: Normal vs. cognitively impaired, MCI, or dementia
- II: Normal or cognitively impaired vs. MCI or dementia
- III: Normal, cognitively impaired, or MCI vs. dementia

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## **Analysis Procedures**



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## Summary of Study Subject's Characteristics in the NACC database

Table I	Total Frequency 120,099	Normal 58,886 (49.03%)	Impaired-not- MCI 5,871 (4.89%)	MCI 22,256 (18.53%)	Dementia 33,086 (27.55%)	
MMSE 25.57 (5.97)	86,348	28.91 (1.46)	28.03 (2.20)	27.07 (2.52)	19.27 (7.04)	
MoCA 23.33 (5.80)	33,752	26.37 (2.75)	24.73 (3.36)	22.57 (3.50)	14.92 (6.17)	
Age 75.80 (7.37)	120,099	75.20 (7.25)	75.26 (7.14)	76.33 (7.24)	76.61 (7.59)	
Education Years 15.42 (3.31)	119,721	15.89 (3.00)	15.20 (3.63)	15.36 (3.36)	14.69 (3.64)	
Sex: Female 69,394 (57.78%)	120,099	20,299 (34.47%)	2,550 (43.43%)	11,045 (49.63%	16,811 (50.81%)	
Diabetes 5,418 (14.26%)	37,982	2,862 (13.42%)	276 (14.79%)	1,276 (17.65%)	1,004 (13.82%)	
Smoking History 40,920 (46.63%)	87,762	18,922 (47.11%)	2,256 (52.39%)	7,883 (47.00%)	11,859 (44.72%	
Alcohol Abuse 5,104 (5.65%)	90,322	1,568 (3.82)	371 (8.47%)	1,025 (5.96%)	2,140 (7.73%)	
Hypertension 19,620 (51.58%)	38,037	10,689 (49.33%	1,096 (58.61%)	4096 (56.54%)	3739 (51.54%)	
Hypercholesterolemia 21,083 (55.87%)	37,734	11,669(54.28%)	1,036 (55.55%)	4,285 (59.68%)	4093 (56.90%)	

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## Models with Age, Education and Sex, and MMSE/MoCA Added

Table II	Independent Variables	1	Ш	Ш
	Age, Education, Sex	63.77%	63.68%	62.92%
MMSE	Age, Education, Sex, MMSE	86.61%	88.19%	93.98%
	Difference in AUC	+22.84%	+24.51%	+31.06%
	Age, Education, Sex	62.33%	62.56%	62.28%
MoCA	Age, Education, Sex, MoCA	86.65%	88.74%	94.10%
	Difference in AUC	+24.32%	+26.18%	+31.82%

<sup>\*</sup> I: normal vs. cognitively impaired, MCI, or dementia; II: normal or cognitively impaired vs. MCI or dementia; III: normal, cognitively impaired, or MCI vs. dementia



## Performance of MMSE and MoCA in different cognitive statuses

Table III	MMSE				MOCA			
Cognitive Status	1	ш	Ш	Mean	1	Ш	Ш	Mean
Sensitivity	73.0%	76.1%	85.4%	78.2%	76.1%	79.4%	86.3%	80.6%
Specificity	82.2%	82.1%	87.4%	83.9%	79.1%	79.0%	85.5%	81.2%
AUC	84.6%	86.5%	93.3%	88.2%	84.9%	86.9%	93.1%	88.3%

<sup>\*</sup> I: Normal vs. Cognitively Impaired, MCI, or Dementia;



<sup>\*</sup> II: Normal vs. MCI or Dementia;

<sup>\*</sup> III: Normal, Cognitively Impaired, or MCI vs. Dementia

## The MMSE and MoCA optimal cutoff points in different subgroups

	Table IV		Male		Female		
	AGE (years)	61-70	71-80	81-90	61-70	71-80	81-90
	High School or Below	26/26/24	26/25/24	25/25/24	27/27/25	26/26/24	25/25/24
MMSE	Bachelor degree or equivalent	28/27/26	27/27/26	27/27/25	28/28/26	28/28/26	27/27/26
	Master degree or equivalent	28/28/27	28/28/26	27/27/26	28/28/27	28/28/27	28/28/26
	Doctoral degree or above	28/28/27	28/27/27	27/27/26	28/28/28	28/28/27	28/28/26
	High School or Below	24/24/19	22/22/19	20/20/18	23/23/19	22/22/19	20/20/18
MOCA	Bachelor degree or equivalent	24/23/22	23/23/21	22/22/20	24/24/22	24/23/21	23/23/20
	Master degree or equivalent	25/25/23	24/24/22	24/24/21	25/25/23	25/25/23	24/24/21
	Doctoral degree or above	26/25/23	25/25/22	24/24/22	26/25/24	25/25/22	25/25/23

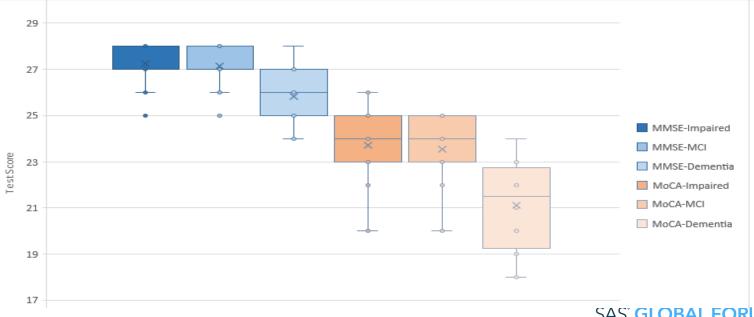
<sup>\*</sup> The numbers in each cell refers to the optimal cutoff point to differentiate I: normal vs. cognitively impaired, MCI, or dementia; II: normal or cognitively impaired vs. MCI or dementia; III: normal, cognitively impaired, or MCI vs. dementia.



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## **Conclusion: Better Diagnosis in Dementia**

- MMSE and MoCA are helpful in testing cognitive status based on the substantial change in AUC.
- The sensitivity and specificity of MMSE and MoCA can vary depending on subject's characteristics, thus using a personalized test cutoff may be more effective in the diagnosis of cognitive function than a single universal cutoff.
- Better Diagnosis in Dementia: The tests demonstrated greatest increase in AUC, sensitivity and specificity for the outcome of dementia; Most of the cutoff-points are similar for diagnosing impaired and MCI; These tests may be not sensitive in cognition impairment or MCI screening, and may serve as a more efficient diagnostic tool for dementia.





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## **Suggestions for Future Studies**

#### Comparisonss & Advantages

#### Tan et al. (2015) & Ng A et al. (2013)

- Relatively small sample size
- Study population: Chinese, Singapore



- Huge sample size
- Study population: American

#### Chapman et al (2016)

- Considered population characteristics separately
- Treated MCI and dementia as two distinct diseases



- Considered age, education, and sex as covariates and created subgroups
- Considered impaired, MCI and dementia as an ordinal variable

#### **Limitation & Future Works**

#### Parallel data

Not directly comparable between MMSE and MoCA

#### **Depression**

Interaction with Misdiagnosis in dementia [12]

#### **Impairment**

Relatively small sample size with impaired cognitive function

Difficulty in diagnosis impaired

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Few subjects had

both MMSE and

MoCA data

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Alzheimer

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## Thank you!

Contact Information abc@email.com