

Attitudes Toward APOE Genetic Testing in Prodromal Alzheimer's Disease: Knowledge, Hope, and Worry

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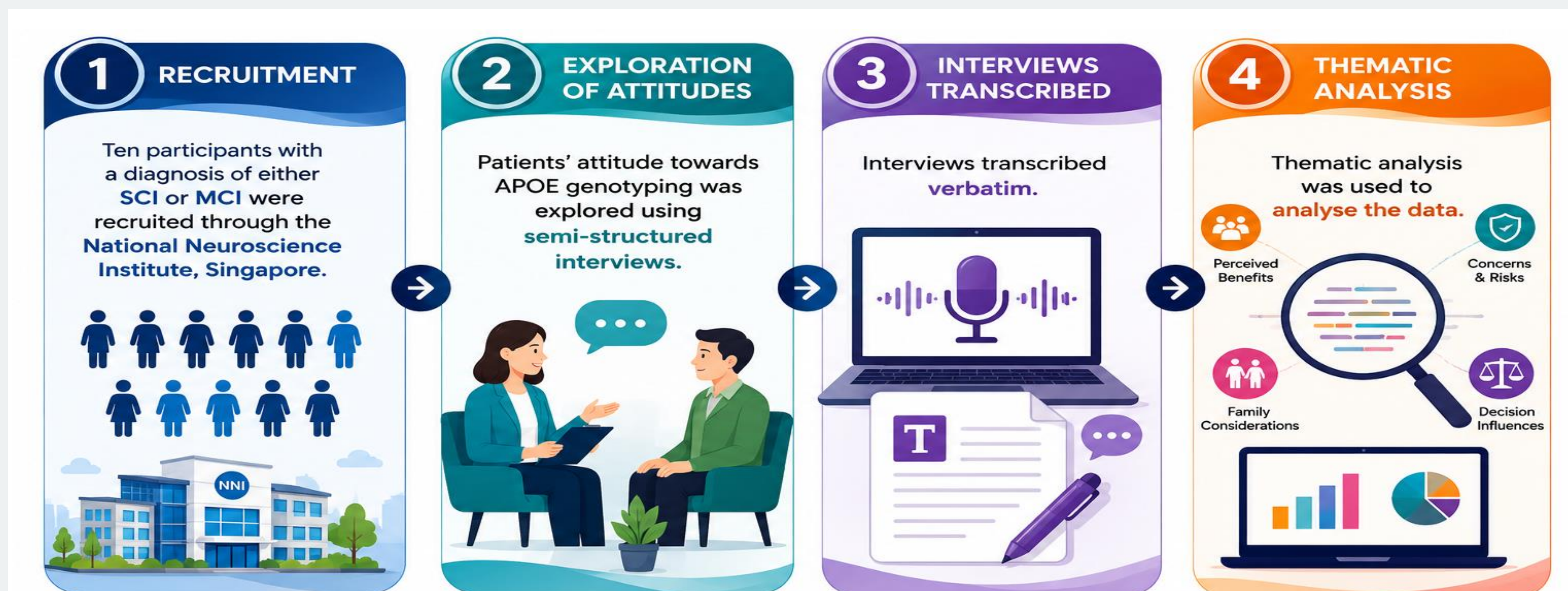
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Background

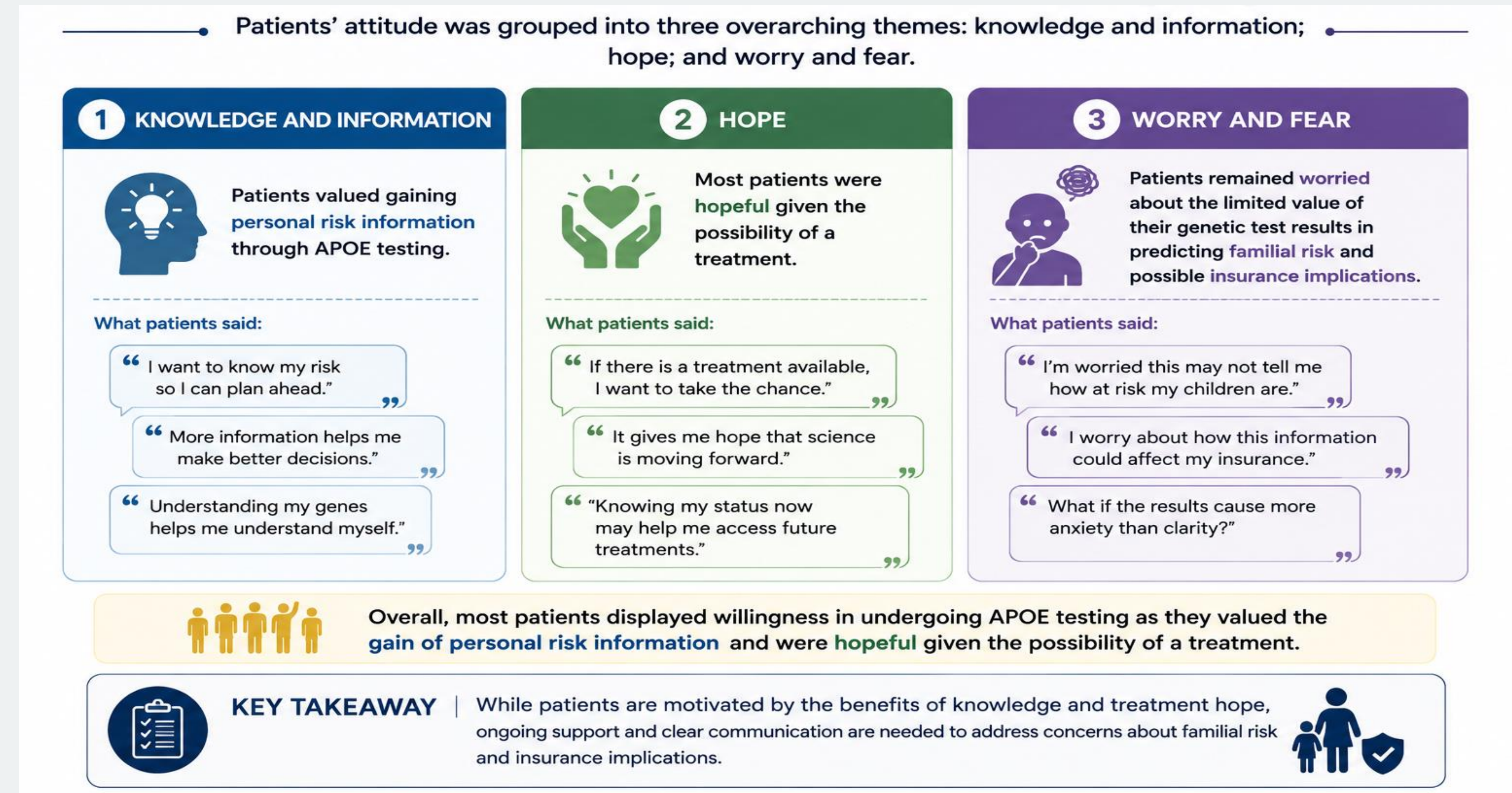
APOE genotyping, which has not traditionally been included in the clinical diagnostic workup of Alzheimer's disease (AD), is becoming increasingly relevant with the availability of amyloid-modifying therapies. However, APOE genotyping occupies a unique position at the interface of pharmacogenetics and germline testing, informing not only on treatment safety but also on the inherited susceptibility to AD.

Although prior studies have examined attitudes toward APOE testing in the general public and family members of patients with AD, data from prodromal AD populations which includes patients with a diagnosis of Subjective Cognitive Impairment (SCI) and Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) remains limited. This group is the most likely to encounter APOE genotyping in the context of therapeutic decision-making and therefore, it is important to examine their attitudes toward APOE genetic testing.

Methods



Results



When discussing about the possibility of a positive result, almost all patients indicated a considerable level of mental resilience and highlighted the importance of support from their healthcare team and access to relevant scientific resources. Varying degree of willingness to share their genetic test results with family members was also observed.

Conclusion

This study has provided insight into the attitudes of prodromal AD patients about APOE genetic testing in Singapore and outlined some of the benefits and concerns they have about testing. It also informed us about how we can provide better clinical care and support for patients who undergo APOE testing.