As the number of seniors continues to rise, we find ourselves in the midst of an aging society with various economic, cultural, and political challenges. While medical innovations and improved disease prevention have certainly enhanced the overall quality of life for older people, Alzheimer's disease (AD) remains stigmatized and is assumed to be a death sentence for those diagnosed. Consequently, people with Alzheimer's are often deemed incapable (and perhaps unworthy) of contributing to the social discourse surrounding their illness experience. This study analyzed qualitative interview data from 18 people diagnosed with the potential preclinical phase of AD known as amnestic mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Using grounded theory methods, analysis revealed common themes of uncertainty and misinformation concerning definitions of memory loss, MCI, and AD as well as distinctions between normal aging and dementia. The interactional tensions resulting from this confusion over the terminology and prognosis mirror the lack of scientific consensus about the nosology and appropriate treatment regimen for MCI. Such ambiguity creates social and psychological difficulties in the lives of diagnosed individuals. The implications of these findings for research and practice are noteworthy as it is crucial to understand the perspectives of those most intimately affected, including how they interpret the news they are given and the effects the condition has on their health practices, social interactions, and everyday lives. In order to inform interventions, improve clinical encounters and quality of life for diagnosed individuals, and provide appropriate services and treatment options, narratives of MCI must be widely surveyed.