

Adult Grand Rounds

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Lessons from a Neuropsychological Case Study of Adult Polyglucosan Body Disease (APBD) Initially Diagnosed as Multiple Sclerosis

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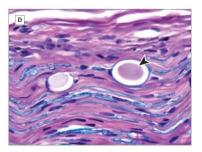
APBD: Transmission & Pathology

- APBD is an autosomal recessive disease → deficiency of glycogen branching enzyme gene (GBE1) encoded at chromosome 3p12.
- Affects central and peripheral nervous systems, as well as other tissue (e.g., liver).
- Neuroimaging markers include demyelination and gliosis:
 - Medullary and cervical spinal cord atrophy (100 %)
 - Subcortical and periventricular white matter lesions affecting posterior limb of internal capsule (93 %) and the brainstem (97 %)
 - Cerebellar atrophy (57 %)
 - Thinning of the corpus callosum (43%)

Klein, 2009; Mochel, et al. 2012; Hellman et al., 2015



Intracellular accumulation of polyglucosan bodies in neurons detected by Luxol fast blue staining for myelin.



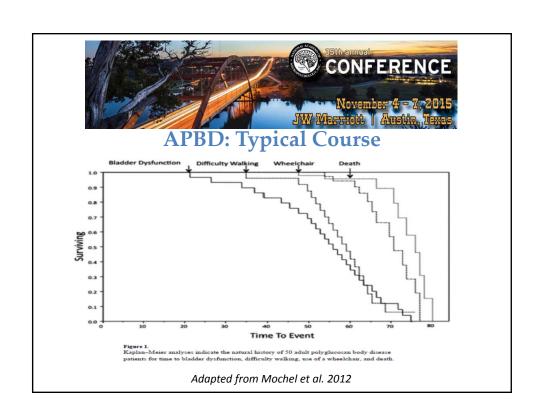
Adapted from Paradas et al. 2014



APBD: Mechanism & Diagnosis

- Neuro-mechanism unknown
 - Astrocytic transport or energy deficit in glial cells?
- Diagnosis is based on:
 - Clinical exam
 - MRI of brain/spinal cord
 - Sural nerve biopsy
 - Assay of GBE activity
 - Genetic testing

Klein, 2009; Mochel et al., 2012



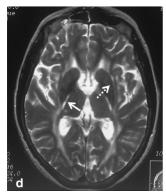


APBD: Epidemiology

- Frequency of GSDs is 1:10,000, GBE deficiencies account for ~3% (Mochel et al., 2012)
 - In Ashkenazi Jews, heterozygote frequency = 1:35 (Hussain et al., 2012)
 - Also Dx'd in Latinos, Pacific Islanders, Caucasians, Cambodians, Koreans, Italians (Lee et al., 2007; Dainese et al., 2012; Mochel et al., 2012; Colombo et al., 2015)
- Frequently misdiagnosed (Hellman et al. 2015):
 - Benign prostatic hypertrophy in males (53%)
 - → "inappropriate" prostatectomy (62%)
 - Cerebral Small Vessel Disease (27 %)
 - Peripheral Neuropathies (20 %)
 - Multiple Sclerosis (17 %)
 - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (17 %)
 - Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy (10%)
 - Multiple System Atrophy (7%)



MRI of a 67-year-old female with APBD initially Dx'd as MSA





Adapted from Hellman et al. 2015



APBD: Treatment

- Experimental, open trial of triheptanoin diet therapy in 6 patients (Roe, Bottiglieri, Wallace, Arning & Martin, 2010):
 - Temporary perceived stabilization of symptoms
 - Increased strength
 - Decreased urinary frequency
 - · Reduced ptosis and leg pain
 - Improved walking performance
- No FDA approved treatments
- Palliative and symptom-focused care
- Pre-conception genetic screening/family planning



APBD: Cognitive Characteristics

- Riffai et al., (1994) described test performance in a 56 y/o male
 - Borderline FSIQ, deficient sustained attention, slow processing, impaired visuospatial skills, anomia, auditory comprehension problems, and recognition memory > free recall.
- Savage et al. (2006) described an 80 y/o female with moderate to severe impairments in memory, language, executive functioning, and visuoconstructional deficits that remained stable across 4-years.
- Billot et al., (2013) reported a case of transient severe attentional and dysexecutive deficits in a 35 y/o woman with APBD, undetected at F/U.
- Other reports have described APBD pathology co-morbidly with LBD (Trivedi et al., 2003) and FTLD (Farmer et al., 2013), and AD (Mochel et al., 2012).



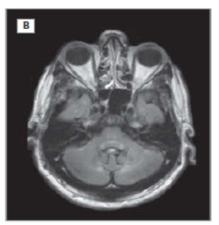
Present Case: Background

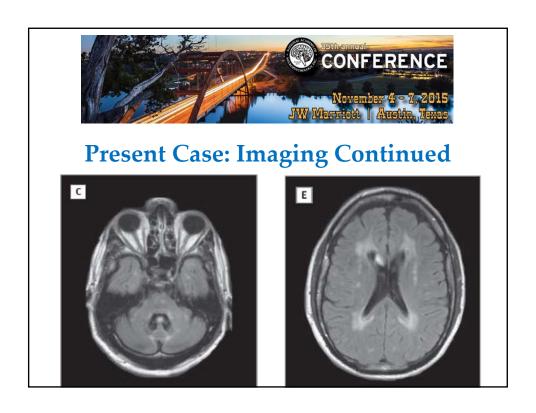
- 46 year-old, RH, married man with 18-years of education in the visual arts.
- Onset: At age 37, had hour-long episode of slurred speech, numbness/weakness in legs, difficulty walking, urinary urgency/incontinence and feeling "cloudy."
- Given MS diagnosis after MRI showed demyelination.
- Treated with interferon beta-1a for 5-years.
- These symptoms persisted along a relapsing-remitting course despite treatment.

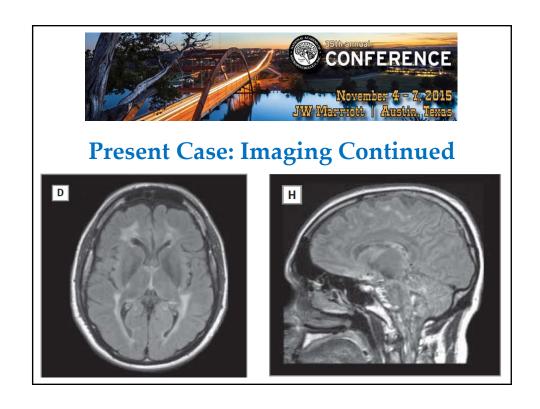


Present Case: Imaging











Present Case: Background Continued

- At age 43, medical providers learned that brother died at age 2 ½ of hepatopathy, following 2 failed liver transplants.
 - At autopsy, liver showed abnormal glycogen storage.
- *GBE1* mutations were detected in our patient and branching enzyme activity was <10% of normal.
- Diagnosis was changed to early adult—onset, relapsingremitting, polyglucosan body disease.
- interferon beta-1a was discontinued.



Present Case: Complaints

- Context of NP referral:
 - Referred following 2-years of new-onset cognitive complaints that appeared stable
- Cognitive
 - Trouble concentrating and initiating → errors on the job
 - Mild short-term memory problems, but "eventually remembers"
 - Increased effort to prioritize and complete tasks
- Functioning
 - Recent job loss (presumably due to cognitive problems)
- Mood
 - "Stressed": questions about how to live fully despite APBD
 - Recently started insight-oriented psychotherapy; no psychotropics
- Social
 - Marital Difficulties



Intellectual Functioning

ACS TOPF	SS = 117	Above Average
WAIS-IV VCI	SS = 112	Above Average
WAIS-IV PRI	SS = 121	Superior
WAIS-IV WMI	SS = 86	Low Average
WAIS-IV PSI	SS = 94	Average
WAIS-IV FSIQ	SS = 107	Average
WAIS-IV GAI	SS = 120	Above Average



Attention

WAIS-IV LDF	Raw=6	21%	Low Average
WAIS-IV LDB	Raw=4	18%	Low Average
WAIS-IV LDS	Raw=5	18%	Low Average
WAIS-IV Arithmetic	ss=7	14%	Borderline

Conners' CPT-II	70%	Better Matches a Clinical Profile
Omissions	T=62	Moderately Atypical
Commissions	T=59	Mildly Atypical
Hit RT Block Change	T=61	Moderately Atypical
Hit SE Block Change	T=73	Markedly Atypical
Variability	T=65	Markedly Atypical



Processing Speed

DKEFS Motor Speed	11	Average
DKEFS Combined Number & Letter Sequencing	12	Above Average
DKEFS Color Naming	11	Average
DKEFS Word Reading	12	Above Average
WAIS-IV Coding	9	Average
WAIS-IV Symbol Search	9	Average



Executive Functioning

DKEFS Number Letter Switching	9	Average
DKEFS Category Switching	11	Average
DKEFS Color Word Inhibition	10	Average
DKEFS Inhibition/Switching (I/S)	10	Average
I/S Uncorrected Errors	14%	Borderline
DKEFS Tower: Move Accuracy	7	Borderline
WAIS-IV Similarities	11	Average
WAIS-IV Matrix Reasoning	12	High Average
WCST-64 Categories	Raw=3	Non-Impaired
WCST-64 Total Errors	T=41	Low Average
WCST-64 Perseverative Errors	T=33	Mildly-Moderately Impaired



Language

WAIS-IV Vocabulary	46	12	Above Average
BNT-2 Total Score	59	T=54	Average
DKEFS Category Fluency (CF)	35	9	Average
DKEFS Letter Fluency (LF)	25	6	Mildly Impaired

Visuospatial

RCFT Copy	Raw=36/36	Non-Impaired
WAIS-IV Block Design	14	Above Average
WAIS-IV Matrix Reasoning	12	Above Average
WAIS-IV Visual Puzzles	15	Superior



Visual Learning & Memory

BVMT-R: Total Recall	T=56	Average
BVMT-R: Delayed Recall	T=59	Above Average
BVMT-R: Discriminability	>16	Non-Impaired
RCFT: Immediate Recall	T=59	Above Average
RCFT: Delayed Recall	T=57	Above Average
RCFT: Discriminability	T=57	Above Average



Verbal Learning & Memory

T=68	Superior
T=40	Low Average
T=40	Low Average
T=65	Above Average
T=65	Above Average
T=60	Above Average
ss=7	Borderline
ss=7	Borderline
26-50%	Average
	T=40 T=40 T=65 T=65 T=60 ss=7 ss=7



Emotional Functioning

BDI-2	21	Moderately Elevated
BAI	19	Moderately Elevated



Summary

- Reduced attention/working memory, sustained attention, and initiation/fluency were prominent features of the NP profile.
- As cognitive complexity increased, mild but consistent reductions in planning and problemsolving emerged.
- Strengths included visuospatial analysis, reasoning, language, and learning/memory.
- Illness-related maladjustment was observed.



Integration/Interpretation

- Test findings mirror perceived difficulties.
- Attentional and executive deficits may be consistent with white matter degeneration in frontal lobes and/or cerebellar lesions.
- Emotional distress may have contributed to cognitive weaknesses.



Recommendations

- Psychiatry referral.
 - CBT for depression, anxiety, maladjustment.
 - Psychotropics for mood and attention.
- Cognitive remediation referral.
 - Emphasized learning compensatory strategies.
- Encouraged marital counseling.
- Encouraged to take advantage of support resources at http://apbdrf.org/.



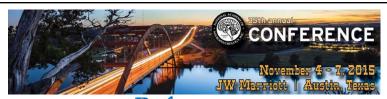
Conclusions

- Case sheds light on neuropsychological characteristics of APBD.
- Pattern of executive dysfunction provides further evidence that cerebellar white matter degeneration may produce cognitive profiles reflecting frontal-systems involvement.
- Although profile could be consistent with more common demyelinating conditions, clinicians should note how critical family history was in reaching accurate diagnosis.



Thank you for your attention.





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Comprehensive Neuropsychological Assessment in Late-Onset Wilson's Disease

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Financial Disclosure

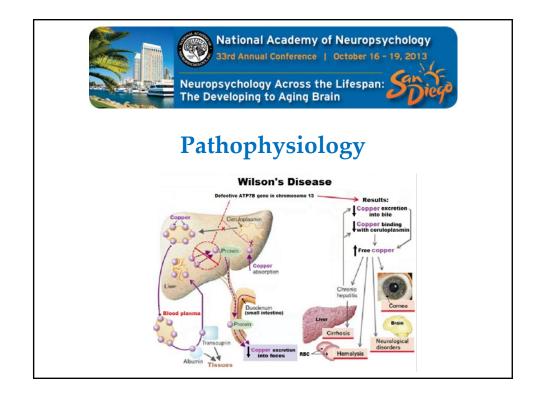
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What is Wilson's Disease

- Autosomal recessive genetic disorder
- Copper accumulation in liver, brain, organs
- 1/30,000
- Ages 12-23, up to age 40
- Hepatic/renal failure

Keller et al., 1999; Lindsay et al., 2004





Initial Symptoms & Diagnostic Features

Symptoms	Diagnostic Features:
Fatigue	*Kayser-Fleischer rings
Jaundice	Abnormal liver tests
Bruise easily	Presence of various symptoms
Fluid in legs/abdomen	
Problems w/ speech or swallowing	
Motor symptoms	
Psychiatric symptoms	
Cognitive dysfunction	

Keller et al., 1999; Lindsay et al., 2004; Seniow et al., 2003





Kayser-Fleischer Rings

- The most characteristic sign
- Not always visible to the naked eye
- ~50% of cases



Keller et al., 1999; Lindsay et al., 2004



Treatment

- Penicillamine may be effective
- Most improve w/ some residual symptoms
- Proportion remain symptomatic or deteriorate
- Difference in outcomes not well studied

Keller et al., 1999; Lindsay et al., 2004



Neurocognitive Deficits

- Limited studies
- Cognitive deficits due to disease and medication effects
- Motor/mental speed and higher order cognitive functions most compromised
- Patients with neurological symptoms perform worse than controls and asymptomatic patients on motor, memory, executive functioning, and visuospatial tasks
- Recent study: evidence for decreased ACC activity, suggesting problems with inhibition; associated with symptom severity

Goldstein et al., 1968; Isaacs-Glaberman et al., 1989; Knehr et al., 1956; Lang et al., 1990; Medalia et al., 1988; Portala et al., 2001; Rathbun et al., 1996; Scheinberg et al., 1968; Seniow et al., 2002; Stock et al., 2015



Epilepsy in Wilson's Disease

- Prevalence of epilepsy is 6-8%
- Related disease and medication effects
- 20% precede WD diagnosis, 45% begin at the time of diagnosis, and 30% occur after treatment
- 70% GTCs; 68% had no recurrence after ~9 years

Dening et al., 1988; Prashanth et al., 2010



Case- Mr. X

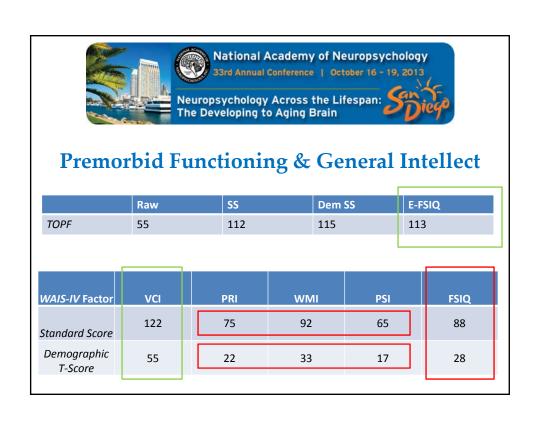
- 63 year old, R-handed, Caucasian, married male with 18 years of education working as a Professor at a major university
- Various cognitive and motor complaints
- Possible hallucinations and one episode of disorientation/unconsciousness
- Depressed mood, personality changes
- Suspected ataxia vs. PD vs. ET
- Testing confirmed Wilson's Disease



Behavioral Observations

- · On time, with wife
- Appropriately dressed, slightly disheveled
- Very slow (gait, motor movements, speech, thought patterns)
- Shuffling gait
- Tremor and dyskinesias
- Verbose and very reflective
- Pleasant
- At times, anxious and concerned with performance
- Needed assistance/modifications







Attention/Working memory

WAIS-IV WMI	Raw	Norm
Digit Span		ss = 9/DemT = 38
Forward	8	ss =8
Backward	10	ss = 12
Sequencing	7	ss= 9
Longest Span FW	5	C% = 94.5
Longest Span BW	5	C% = 45
Longest Span Seq.	5	C% = 81.5
Arithmetic	8	DemT=31



Processing Speed

WAIS-IV PSI	Raw	Norm
Symbol Search	17	ss = 5/DemT = 27
Coding	16	ss =2/DemT = 10
Trail-Making	Raw	Norm
TMT-A	89.4"	-8.3
Symbol-Digit Modality Test	Raw	Norm
Oral	24	Z = -2.8



Executive Functions

Trail-Making Test	Raw	Norm
ТМТ-В	285" (2 errors)	z = -11.9
Stroop	Raw	Norm
Word	73	T = 33
Color	32	T = 18
Color-Word	14	T = 19
Color-Word Interference	-8	T = 42
COWAT	Raw	Norm
FAS	30	z = -1



Executive Functions Continued

Wisconsin Card Sorting Test	Raw	Norm
Categories Completed	3	>16 th %ile
Total Errors	21	T = 41
Total Perseverative Responses	7	T = 53
Trials to 1st Category/FMS	12/0	>16 th %ile/NA
Iowa Gambling Test	Raw	Norm
Total Score	-32	T = 36
WAIS VCI/PRI	Raw	Norm
Similarities	29	ss= 12/DemT =49
Matrix Reasoning	7	ss=5/DemT = 21



Motor/Frontal Motor

Raw	Norm
2 rows in 94" 92 drops)	impaired
2 rows in 83"	impaired
Raw	Norm
9/10	wnl
9/10	wnl
	2 rows in 94" 92 drops) 2 rows in 83" Raw 9/10



Language

Raw	Norm
51	ss = 14/DemT=55
24	ss = 16/DemT=60
Raw	Norm
14	z = -1
	51 24 Raw



Visuospatial Functions

WAIS PRI	Raw	Norm
Visual Puzzles	7	ss= 6/DemT = 25
Block Design	20	ss = 5/DemT = 21
Benton Tests	Raw	Norm
Line Orientation	24 (25 corrected)	56 th %ile
Facial Recognition	43 (44 corrected)	41 st %ile



Learning & Memory

CVLT-II	Raw	Norm
Total Learning	31	T = 39
Trial 5	7	z = -1.5
Short Delay Free/Cued Recall	5/5	z = -1/z = -2
Long Delay Free/ Cued Recall	7/8	z =5/z =5
Recognition	15	z = .5
WMS Logical Memory	Raw	Norm
Immediate Recall	19	ss =7/DemT= 35
Delayed Recall	14	ss = 7/DemT=37
Recognition	24	26-50%ile



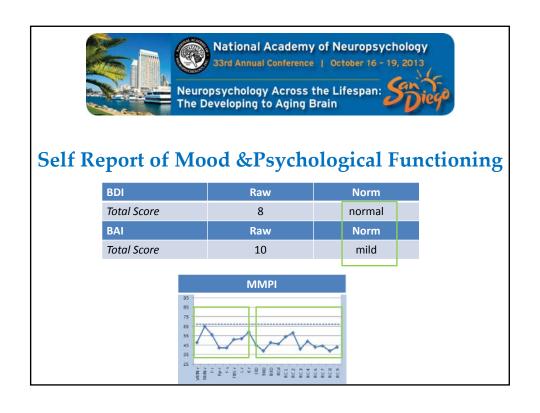
Learning & Memory

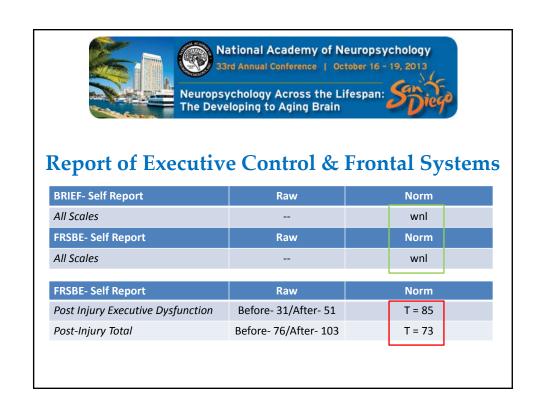
BVMT	Raw	Norm
Total	30	z = .2
Trial 3	10	z = .6
Delay	9	z = .3
Recognition Hits	6	z =3
False Positives	0	z = 0



Effort

CVLT	Raw	Norm
Forced Choice	16/16	wnl
Digit Span	Raw	Norm
Reliable Digits	10	wnl







Summary

- Cognitive decline
- Marked deceases in processing speed and perceptual skills; relative preservation of verbal skills
- Additional weaknesses in attention, cognitive flexibility, judgment, abstract reasoning, motor speed, and visuospatial construction
- Some problems with encoding of verbal information; nonverbal memory was intact



Summary Continued

- Reported symptoms of depression, anxiety, and frustration during the clinical interview
- Denied affective distress on objective measures
- Denied problems with executive control and frontal systems changes
- Wife reported executive dysfunction and overall changes in frontal systems
- May suggest problems with insight



Summary Continued

- Well-educated, high professional achievement
- Obvious decline from baseline, across domains; generally slowing; motor disturbance
- Consistent with other severe cases (Wilson, 1912; Rosseli et al., 1987; & Riley et al., 2001)
- "Subcortical" dysfunction (Wenisch et al., 2013)
- Personality changes (Akil et al., 1990)
- Dx: Major Neurocognitive Disorder due to Wilson's Disease



Summary Continued

- Motor disturbance
- Event when he "passed out" and episodes of "disorientation"



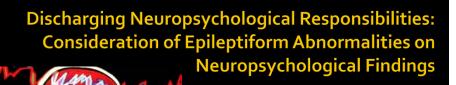
Formulation

- Cognitive, psychological, and motor effects that are unfortunately interfering with his daily life and typical level of functioning
- Meets criteria for Major Neurocognitive Disorder due to Wilson's disease



Recommendations

- 1) Continue treatment plan (medication management, physical therapy, etc.)
- 2) Monitor mood; individual, group, and/or family therapy
- 3) EEG study may be warranted, given increased incidence of epilepsy Medical leave of absence, but stay active
- 4) Repeat NP testing



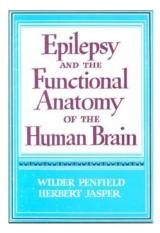
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National Academy of Neuropsychology November 6, 2015



Preoperative Neuropsychological Evaluation

- Identify area of focal dysfunction associated with seizure focus
- Minimize/predict postoperative cognitive morbidity
- Characterize cognitive morbidity of different interventions or tissue resected



Epilepsy Surgery Candidate

- Right-handed male in late 20s; no history of familial sinistrality
- Epilepsy duration of approximately 2 years
- No established epilepsy risk factors; no family history of seizures
- Complex partial seizures brief lapses of responsiveness, difficulty speaking, difficulty comprehending
- Seizure frequency ranged up to 20+ month, rare secondary generalization

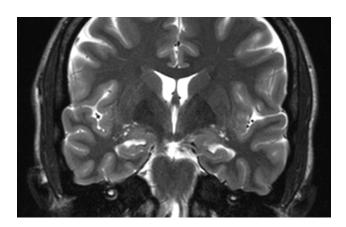
Epilepsy Surgery Candidate

- College education and employed
- History of depression
- History of alcohol and substance abuse predating seizure onset
- Anger management
- Anti-epilepsy drugs (AEDs): levetiracetam (4000 mg) and oxcarbazepine (600 mg)

Epilepsy Surgery Workup

- Interictal EEGs
 - occasional left temporal sharp waves (F7, T3)
- EMU admission
 - 3 seizures recorded; 2 with expressive speech difficulty, 1 with receptive speech difficulty
 - rhythmic theta from left anterior temporal lobe evolving into electrographic seizure

MRI



Verbal Memory

- Rey AVLT
 - Total=40/75, 1st percentile
 - Immediate=6/75, 1st percentile
 - Delay=o/15, <1st percentile
 - Recognition=9/15, 4 FPs, < 1st percentile
- Verbal Paired Associates
 - Immediate=20, 30th percentile
 - Delay=8, 70th percentile

Visual Memory

- Visual Reproduction
 - Immediate=13, 95th percentile
 - Delay=2, 1st percentile
 - Recognition=3/4, low average
- Complex Figure (Copy =36/36)
 - Immediate=20.5, 21st percentile
 - Delay=16.5, 4th percentile

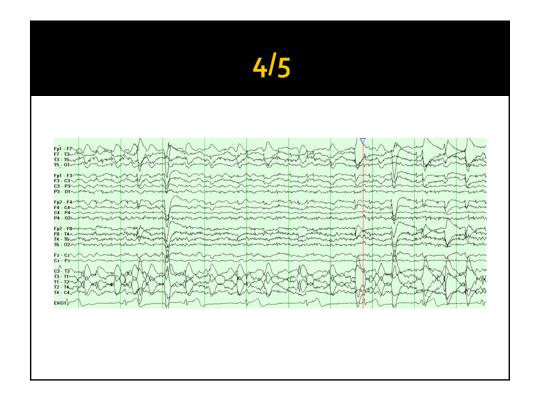
Neuropsychological Test Results

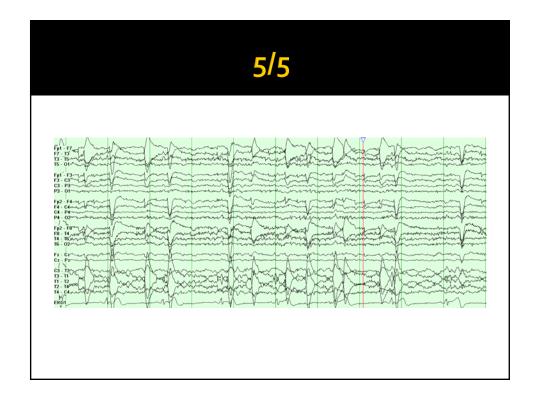
- FSIQ=110 (VCI=114; PRI=105, WMI=122)
- Boston Naming=56/60, wnl
- Oral WMT=87.5, 82.5, 87.5
 - Average of 3 genuine memory trials 50%
 - GMIP Profile
 - Delayed Recall only 20%



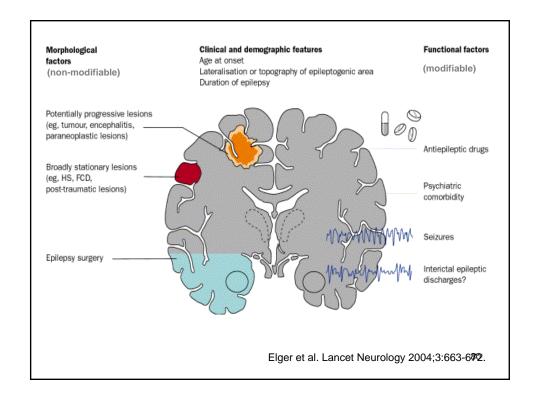






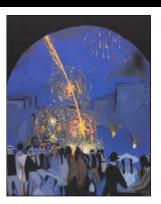


Neuropsych Results				
Test	Results	EEG Comment		
IQ	FSIQ=110 (VCI=114 PRI=105, WMI=122)	Variable EEG discharges throughout		
PVT	Failed 1/3 oral WMT; GMIP	Epileptiform activity present prior to test administration		
Boston Naming	56/60; WNL	Assessed in PM; 2 hours after EEG abnormalities ceased		
AVLT	40/75, 1 st percentile Delay=0/15, Recognition=9/15	EEG present prior to and during testing		
Verbal Pairs	Imm=30 th percentile Delay=70 th percentile	Completed in PM; no discharges		
Visual Reproduction	Imm=95 th percentile Delay=1 st percentile	Completed in AM; shortly after EEG discharges		
Complex Figure	Imm=95 th percentile Delay=4 th percentile	Completed in PM; no discharges		



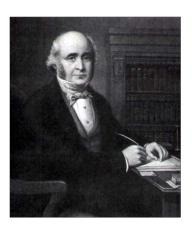
Seizures / EEG Abnormalities

- Long-term
- Postictal
- Interictal dc's
 - transient cognitive impairment



Dali (1916)

Robert Bentley Todd (1809-1860)



- Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at King's College
- Introduced "afferent" and "efferent"
- Localized major lesion of tabes dorsalis
- Wine and brandy copiously prescribed for fevers

Todd's Paralysis

- Post-ictal focal neurologic deficit/weakness
- Neuronal "exhaustion" from seizure
- Resolves within minutes or hours

Postictal Language Assessment

- Inability to accurately read aloud "They heard him speak on the radio last night" within 60 sec after sz end
- Not associated with Frontal onset unless spread to TL
- Paraphasic errors

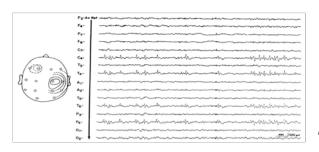
Postictal vs Non-ictal Memory

(z scores)

Pt	TLE	Verbal	VS	Laterality
1	R	+0.4	-2.1	+2.5
2	R	-0.9	-1.1	+0.2
3	R	-0.9	-1.8	+0.9
4	R	-2.9	-2.9	+0.0
5 6	L	-2.6	-1.5	-1.1
6	L	-2.4	-2.1	-0.3
7	Ļ	-0.7	-0.4	-0.3
8	L	-2.6	+0.2	-2.7

Andrewes et al., Neuropsychologia 1990;28:957-967

Transient Cognitive Impairment (TCI)





Frederic A. Gibbs (1903-1992)

 Relationship of interictal EEG discharges to cognition (masked or larval epilepsy)

Subclinical Discharges and Driving

- 6 pts, frequent DCs;4 sz free 4+ years
- Lateral position effects in 3 and trend in 1
- Mean speed, speed SD impaired in 3 (p=.10)



- Discharge frequency decreased while driving compared to sitting in parking lot
- Temporary increase while waiting at red light

Kasteleijn-Nolst Trenite (1987, 2005).

Material Specificity

- Material Specific Videogame Memory Tasks
 - Corsi Block Tapping Type Task
 - Word Sequencing
- Adaptive level of difficulty
- 11/22 with focal/asymmetric generalized discharges with TCI
- 13/24 with symmetric generalized discharges with TCI

Aarts et al. *Brain* 1984, **107**(1):293-308.

Focal Nature of Impairment

Activity	Corsi Task	Verbal Task
Right sided	4/5	1/5
Symmetrical	12/16	4/16
Left sided	3/12	9/12

Error rates higher when DCs occurred during stimulus compared to DCs during response (no DC effect)

Aarts et a. Brain 1984, 107(1):293-308.

Interictal EEG and short nonconvulsive seizures

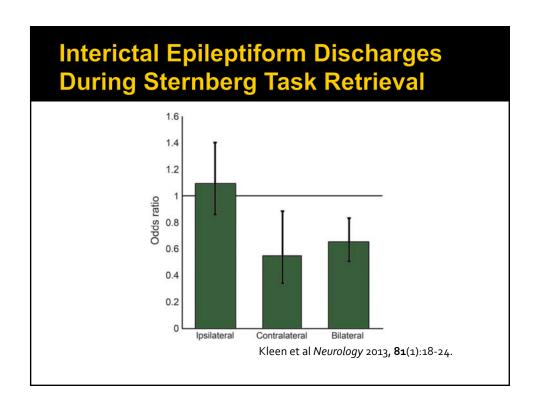
- Short non-convulsive seizures effects ranged from 0.5 to 1.0 SD (8/12 tests)
 - IQ, information processing, memory
- Interictal EEG abnormalities more subtle (3/12 tests)
 - Reading, Arithmetic, memory
- EEG abnormalities >1% worse on 6/12 tests; no effect for >1% but < 10%</p>

Nicolai et al. *Epilepsia* 2012, **53**(6):1051-1059.

Hippocampal EEG abnormalities

- 10 patients with depth electrodes
- Sternberg memory task not "memory" in usual sense
- Hippocampal discharges disrupted maintenance and retrieval, not encoding

Kleen et al Neurology 2013, 81(1):18-24.



Problems for Epilepsy Surgery Neuropsychological Evaluations



Van Gogh (1890)

- Discharging focus resection may mitigate assessed surgical cognitive morbidity
- "False" baseline → may mask genuine decline or suggest improvement