

Brain Changes in Dementia and Associated Behaviours

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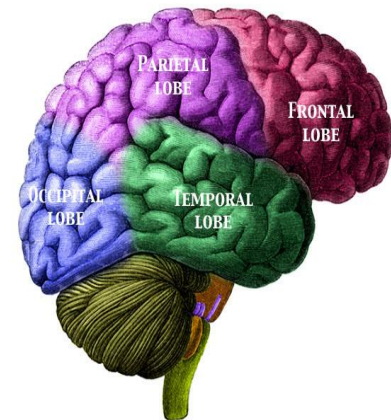
October 2013

Objectives for the Session

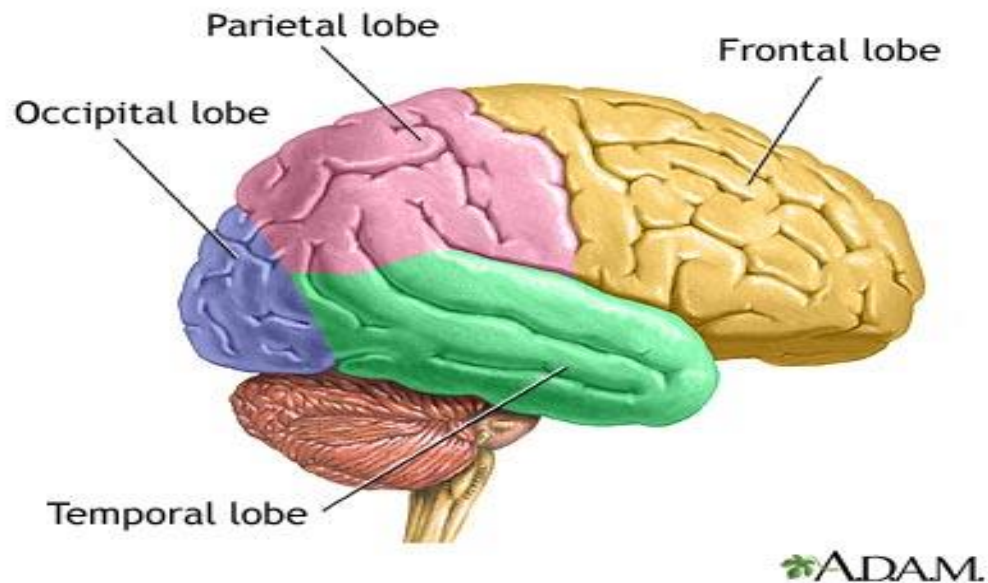
- Recognize the importance of understanding the meaning behind behaviour
- Have an understanding of the “normal” brain functions
- Know the difference between Instinctual, Emotional and Intellectual brain
- Have a working knowledge of the changes in the brain of a person with dementia
- Discuss the importance of honouring “the person inside”
- Be able to identify positive interaction strategies

3 Sections of the Brain

- Instinctual Brain – at the base of the brain
- Emotional Brain – midbrain areas
- Intellectual Brain – top of the brain



Understanding the Human Brain

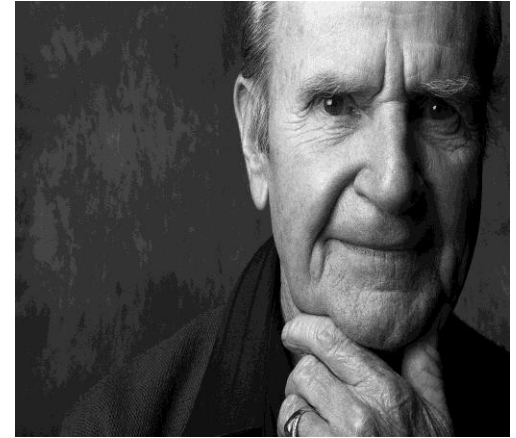


- Frontal Lobe – abstract thought, problem solving, impulse control
- Temporal Lobe – two main functions are language and memory
- Parietal lobe – reading, writing, perception of space
- Occipital Lobe – visual interpretation and recognition

The Brain and Behaviour

- “Our brain determines how we experience the world around us” — **Our reality is not Their reality**
- Damage to different areas of the brain = varying behaviours
- **All behaviour has meaning**
- Understanding the brain and its losses can help guide our responses and interventions

1. Loss of Memory - Amnesia
2. Loss of Language - Aphasia
3. Loss of Recognition - Agnosia
4. Loss of Purposeful Movement - Apraxia
5. No Knowledge of their Disease – Anosognosia
6. Loss of Perceptual Acuity - Altered Perception
7. Loss of Initiation - Apathy



Brain Changes in Dementia

1) Loss of memory (Amnesia)

- Short-term memory
- Long-term memory
- Habitual memory
- Unconscious learning



Brain Changes in Dementia

2) Loss of language (Aphasia)

- Verbal and non-verbal communication
- Language is both speech and comprehension





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Brain Changes in Dementia

3) Loss of recognition (Agnosia)

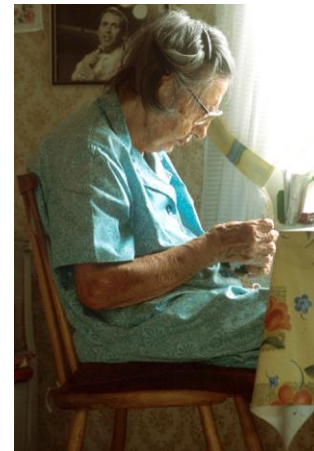
- Loss of recognition of people
- Loss of recognition of objects
- Loss of recognition of sounds



Brain Changes in Dementia

4) Loss of purposeful movement (Apraxia)

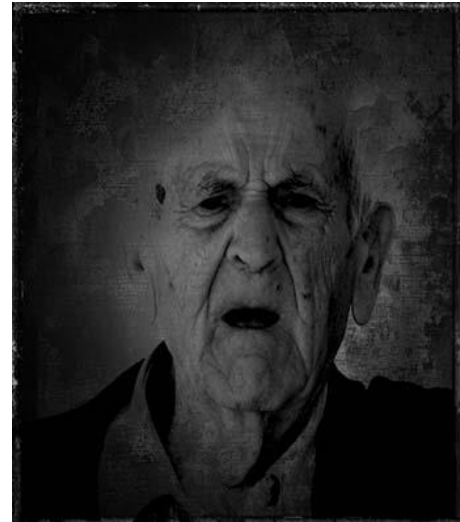
- Loss of ability to plan, sequence and execute the steps of a task
- “Last in, first out”



Brain Changes in Dementia

5) No knowledge of their illness (Anosognosia)

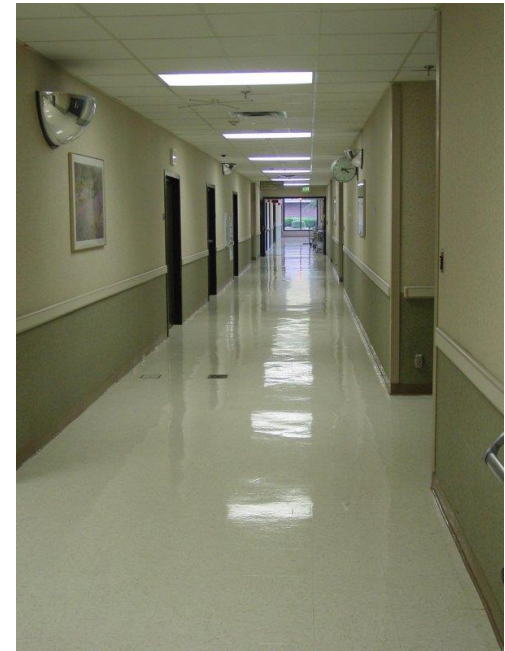
- Impaired insight = resistance to care
- Insight and impulse control as “executive functions”



Brain Changes in Dementia

6) Loss of perceptual acuity (Altered Perception)

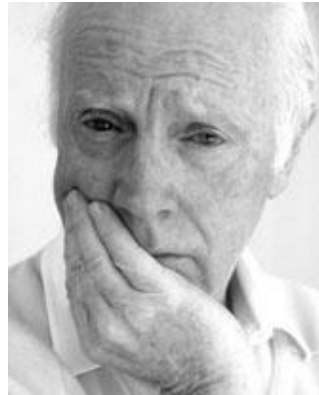
- 3-D centre of the brain
- Loss of depth perception
- Hallucinations



Brain Changes in Dementia

7) Loss of initiation (Apathy)

- Apathy or depression?
- Over half of all dementia persons are emotionally blunted, lack motivation and initiation



Honouring the Person Inside

- Changes in the brain can alter behavior, perceptions and coping strategies.
- A person's core still recognizes pain, joy, loneliness and loss. It may just be presented in a different way.

Questions

