

Teaching NeuroImages:

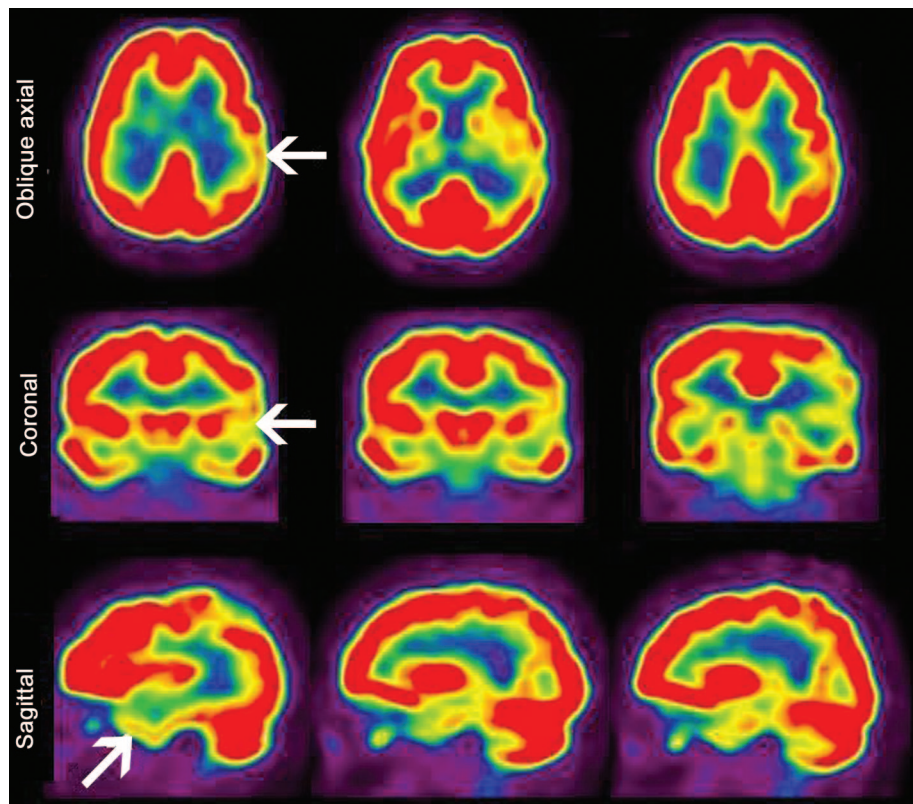
Primary progressive aphasia

PET demonstration

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Figure ^{18}F -FDG PET scan exhibiting marked focal hypometabolism in the left superior temporal, inferior parietal, and lateral thalamic regions



A 49-year-old right-handed woman without family history of neurodegenerative conditions was evaluated for fluency and naming difficulties that developed over 10 years. Neurologic examination was normal except for nonfluent dysphasia. Brain MRI was normal without focal cortical atrophy. Brain metabolic PET scan demonstrated left temporal hypofunction (figure).

Primary progressive aphasia (PPA) is a clinical syndrome that erodes speech and language. The case

was diagnosed logopenic variant of PPA because of word-finding difficulties and decreased output. Alzheimer disease and frontotemporal lobar degeneration are the most common etiologies.¹ Functional imaging may reveal hypometabolism even if structural imaging is normal.

REFERENCE

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Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures.

Neurology[®]

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Neurology 2011;76:e114

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31821f43ed

This information is current as of June 13, 2011

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