

Prosopagnosia -trouble with faces

“Bringing awareness for about this rare condition”



Divyanshi Vijay Kumar,
3rd year MBBS Candidate,
Smt. NHL Municipal
Medical College

INTRODUCTION

As kids we are always told of the unknown to be scary like for example aliens or ghosts, we made our own versions of fear and associated it with a face or an emotion or something malicious, since we could never tangibly understand what the malicious could be, we often learnt adapting to our weaknesses without knowing about the grave instilled fear that we would nurture and thereby wonder about fear patterns. But what if we couldn't give our fear or emotion a face, it would grievously be more fearful and wrench our guts. But what if we never had the ability of association; it would be something like a

world of known strangers.

"YOU LOOK FAMILIAR, BUT I CAN'T RECOGNIZE YOU" - DIPTI TRIPATHI

WHAT IS PROSOPAGNOSIA?

1. Prosopagnosia is a facial cognitive impairment in which the concept of recognizing faces and recognizing their own facial identity is altered leading for them to rely on several alternative mechanisms like visual, auditory, vocal aspects of a person as trained stimuli recognizing

mechanism remains intact.

3. It is derived from a Greek word prosopon, meaning "face", and agnosia, meaning "non-knowledge") and hence it is also termed as FACE BLINDNESS

4. The original coinage referred to a disorder following minor brain damage which is now called acquired Prosopagnosia and hence Prosopagnosia broadly could be classified into acquired and developmental forms having a prevalence of around 2.5%

5. The area in association of facial recognition is fusiform gyrus which generates specific responses to facial characteristics, A functioning gyrus in normal people

mainly recognizes facial attributes in a more precise and comprehensive manner along with compound exanimate objects to which in contrast to that Prosopagnosia sufferers rely on processes of recognizing facial attributes by less delicate object recognition system.

6. Right sided fusiform gyrus play a major role in face recognition than the left but investigations are still made on as to is gyrus only involved in recognitions or could it be evolved to be also inclusive of complex stimuli like visuals

DIVISIONS OF PROSOPAGNOSIA AND IN-BUILT UNDERSTANDING OF CAUSES - in the form of flow chart made by me

DIAGNOSIS OF PROSOPAGNOSIA

There are multiple testing grounds through which a diagnosis can be reached:

1. Testing through showing famous people faces but it's not a standard test.

2. BFRT- BENTON FACIAL RECOGNITION TEST in which what exactly happens is sufferers are showed 1 target / known face and with that face in mind they are provided with six faces additionally with similar features and they have identified whether the target / known face matches the rest six test faces. But in all of this the provision of six

faces are without helpful features like glasses or hair etc. to which they usually rely and also with further in test the 3-4 test faces would match known faces but the lighting and positioning will be different.

3. CFMT- CAMBRIDGE FACE MEMORY TEST ~ by Duchaine and Nakayama
4. PI20 ~ THE 20 ITEM PROSOPAGNOSIA INDEX - on working mechanism of a survey in which questions are asked in order to avail thinking and computed technology for facial recognition.

TREATMENT

IT IS UNDER INVESTIGATIONS

AND TRIALS AND AS OF NOW NO SUCH TREATMENT IS AVAILABLE WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY ACCEPTED AND KNOWN OF.

SHORT HISTORY OF PROSOPAGNOSIA

1. inability to recognize facials dated from back the 19th century, with including case studies by Hughlings Jackson & Charcot. It was not named, prosopagnosia, it's only when the term prosopagnosia was first utilized in around 1947 by the well-known Joachim Bodamer a German neurologist.

2. Description of three cases like a 24-yr-old male who had had bullet injury / trauma in his head leading to impairment of recognition of facials and facial features, including his own facial characteristics. However, non-cognitive or rather all alternative recognition

mechanisms like visual, sensory and auditory and gait was never lost. Joachim Bodamer gave a title to his paper Die Prosop-Agnosie, derived from Classical Greek (prosopon) meaning "face" and (agnosia) meaning "non-knowledge".

3. In 1985 a book named THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT By the author OLIVER SACKS had got a character name 'Dr.P' into limelight who had prosopagnosia and so in this DR.P had trouble recognizing his wife of how she is by her features but would be able to attach two and two together through auditory or specific characters in her having said that even his near and dear ones in pictures weren't recognized by him until he didn't give them specific characters through which he could recognize. The revelation was when

Oliver sarks himself suffered this condition which wasn't really known back then. **Fun Fact** - this term was

used as early as in 1899 in a medical paper by Bill Choisser giving a name or term to a condition faced which

was so hugely popular amongst people that time



Figure 1

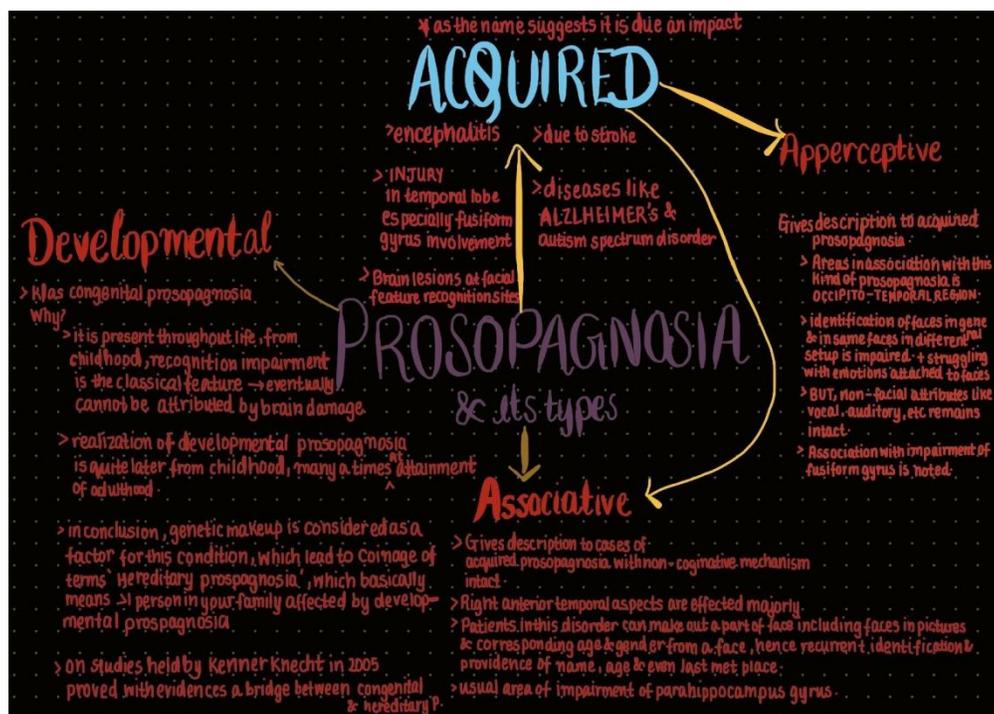


Figure 2

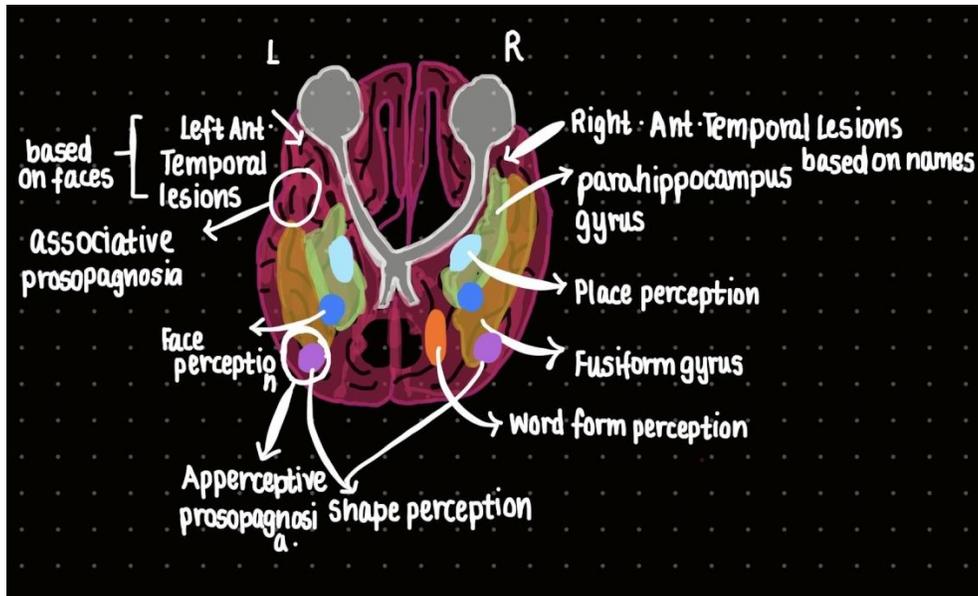


Figure 3

REFERENCES:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosopagnosia>