

of liver mass which explain the development of acute herpetic hepatitis.

#### FRONTAL ASLANT TRACT AND ITS ROLE IN NORMAL SPEECH AND PRIMARY PROGRESSIVE APHASIA

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**Key words:** *aphasia, speech, demetia, Broca's region, motor area*

**Background.** Primary progressive aphasia (PPA) is a clinical dementia syndrome characterized by the progressive impairment of language functioning affecting other cognitive domains as well. Nowadays it is known that PPA is associated with the impairment of frontal aslant tract (FAT) — direct pathway connecting Broca's region (inferior frontal gyrus — pars opercularis) with the anterior cingulate and pre-supplementary motor area.

**Aim.** To study the normal FAT function and the relation between PPA and FAT impairment based on the reviewed articles.

**Material and Methods.** The articles from PubMed databases published in the last 5 years were analyzed. Key words used: «frontal aslant tract», «primary progressive aphasia», «aphasia», «white matter».

**Results and Discussion.** During the analysis it was found that patients with PPA possess many macro- and microstructural FAT abnormalities, such as cortical atrophy in the posterior frontal regions, changes in number of streamlines, fractional anisotropy and radial diffusivity, which underlie verbal fluency deficits in patients with PPA.

Furthermore, intraoperative stimulation of FAT causes stuttering, and stimulation of the pre-supplementary motor area and anterior cingulate cortex connected by FAT produces vocalization and arrest of speech. In addition, lesions in these areas result in speech impairment from mutism to mild altered fluency.

**Conclusions.** The frontal aslant tract is a white matter fascicle that provides verbal fluency. When impaired, it fails to function properly causing

speech dysfluencies. Moreover, since it connects inferior frontal gyrus (pars opercularis) with the anterior cingulate and pre-supplementary motor area, it can indirectly control the speech initiation.

#### KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTIONS

##### ABOUT BODY DONATION — A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY IN INDIA

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**Key words:** *anatomy, body donation, cadaver, dissection*

**Aim.** The objective of the present study was to assess the knowledge, attitude and perceptions about body donation in India.

**Material and Methods.** The present cross sectional study was done among students and faculty of Kasturba Medical College, Mangaluru, India. A semi structured questionnaire was used to collect the relevant information from 300 individuals. The questionnaire was based on the basics of legal provisions and act governing body donation and common myths and opinion of the people regarding it.

**Results and Discussion.** The present study observed that, majority of the participants were reasonably well aware about the rules and regulations about body donation. Most participants were aware about the use of donated bodies in anatomical dissection and teaching and use by surgeons to try new surgical skills. Nearly 40% participants said that the family cannot donate the body of the deceased irrespective of his wish to donate body after death. However nearly 32% said that the family can donate the deceased individual's body irrespective of his/her wishes.

**Conclusions.** In our study, the participants were largely aware about the procedure for registering oneself as body donor. Despite this, the willingness to donate was low. Despite the fact that donated bodies is the preferred source for cadavers, the proportion of people in the general population registering for body donation remains very small.