The forgotten nails
Hemionychophagia

A 34-year-old woman presented with a left middle cerebral artery stroke due to an ipsilateral internal carotid artery dissection. At discharge, neurologic exploration was normal. Performance at the line crossing and letter cancellation tests was flawless. MRI is shown in the figure, A. However, 6 months later, asymmetric self nail-biting was noticed (figure, B, arrows) without additional clinical or MRI findings, persisting at follow-up. This neurologic disturbance was considered as right-sided personal neglect and seems to be related to a functional disconnection between the thalamus and regions coding more abstract egocentric representations of the body in space.

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Author contributions: Dr. Egido: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data. Dr. García: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data.

Disclosure: Dr. Egido has served on a scientific advisory board for Boehringer Ingelheim. Dr. García reports no disclosures.

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Neurology 2011;77;1015
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31822cfca5

This information is current as of September 5, 2011