Thalamic aphasia syndrome

An 83-year-old right-handed woman presented with sudden right-sided hemiparesis, somnolence, and loss of normal speech. Speech was nonfluent with semantic paraphasias and word-finding difficulties. Word repetition and comprehension were normal. MRI brain showed an area of restricted diffusion in the left thalamus consistent with acute infarction (figure 1). Speech fluency returned to normal after 2 days with occasional dysnomia and paraphasias.

Left thalamic infarcts can result in aphasia that is characterized by lexical-semantic deficits and intact word repetition; fluency and comprehension are variably affected.1 Thalamic aphasia has been hypothesized to result from disconnection between cortical language centers and thalamic nuclei (figure 2).1,2

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Dr. Umair Afzal: acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, drafting the manuscript. Dr. Muhammad U. Farooq: critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content and study supervision.

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REFERENCES
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