Mystery Case: Injuries of neural tracts in the Papez circuit following anterior thalamic infarction

An 80-year-old woman received conservative management for an infarct in the anterior thalamus (figure, A). She had shown severe memory impairment since the onset of infarction. Diffusion tensor tractography at 2 weeks after onset showed that the thalamocortical tract between the anterior thalamic nuclei and the cingulate gyrus and the mammillothalamic tract were reconstructed in the right hemisphere.1,2 By contrast, the left thalamocortical tract showed thinning compared with that of the right hemisphere and the left mammillothalamic tract was not reconstructed. This patient's memory impairment was mainly the result of injuries of these tracts in the Papez circuit.1,2

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Sung Ho Jang: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, study supervision, obtaining funding. Jun Lee: study concept or design, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, acquisition of data. Hyeok Gyu Kwon: drafting/revising the manuscript, analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, statistical analysis.

From the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (S.H.J., H.G.K.) and Neurology (J.L.), College of Medicine, Yeungnam University, Daegu, Republic of Korea.

Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures. Funding information and disclosures deemed relevant by the authors, if any, are provided at the end of the article.
STUDY FUNDING
Supported by Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (2012R1A1A4A01001873).

DISCLOSURE
The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

REFERENCES

MYSTERY CASE RESPONSES
The Mystery Case series was initiated by the Neurology® Resident & Fellow Section to develop the clinical reasoning skills of trainees. Residency programs, medical student preceptors, and individuals were invited to use this Mystery Case as an educational tool. Responses were solicited through a group e-mail sent to the American Academy of Neurology Consortium of Neurology Residents and Fellows and through social media. All the responses that we received came from individuals rather than groups. A total of 50% of respondents correctly identified the left thalamic infarction in the figure, A, and the loss of the left mammillothalamic tract on diffusion tensor tractography in the figure, B.

This case report demonstrates the utility of tractography in assessing the integrity of neural pathways, such as the Papez circuit, which are not directly visualized with other imaging modalities such as CT or conventional MRI.

Andrew Schepmyer, MD
University of British Columbia
Mystery Case: Injuries of neural tracts in the Papez circuit following anterior thalamic infarction
Sung Ho Jang, Jun Lee and Hyeok Gyu Kwon
Neurology 2014;82:e178-e179
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000000444

This information is current as of May 26, 2014

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/82/21/e178.full

References
This article cites 2 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/82/21/e178.full#ref-list-1

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Clinical Neurology
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_clinical_neurology
DWI
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/dwi
Infarction
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/infarction
Memory
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/memory

Permissions & Licensing
Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints
Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise