

Shape-similar errors in Chinese pure alexia

Shi-Lin Yang, MD,* Xiang Han, MD,* and Qiang Dong, MD

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Correspondence

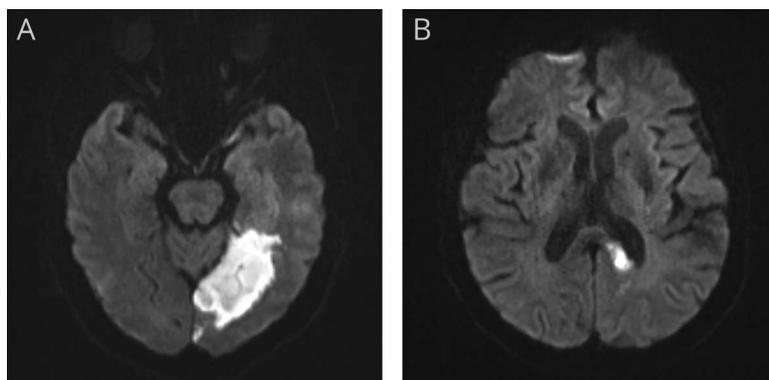
Dr. Dong
dong_qiang@fudan.edu.cn

Figure 1 Examples of shape-similar errors in the oral reading test

Character shown	每	采	京	干	勺	目	木
Character read aloud	母	来	亲	子	的	自	未
Character shown	水	色	早	钓	池	豹	痛
Character read aloud	未	爸	早	的	地	钩	俑

The oral reading test showed that the patient often read one character as another one with a similar shape but different meaning and pronunciation.

Figure 2 MRI of the brain



Brain MRI showed acute infarction involving the left occipital lobe, medial temporal lobe (A), and splenium of corpus callosum (B).

A 64-year-old literate Chinese man presented with sudden onset of difficulty reading. Examination revealed right homonymous hemianopsia and pure alexia. The oral reading test showed that he often read one character as another one with a similar shape but different meaning and pronunciation (figure 1). Brain MRI showed acute infarction involving the left occipital lobe, medial temporal lobe, and splenium of corpus callosum (figure 2). Pure alexia is a clinical disconnection syndrome that was first described in a patient with a similar infarction by Dejerine in 1892.¹ Shape-similar errors may be a phenomenon characteristic of Chinese pure alexia.

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

From the Department of Neurology, Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.

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Author contributions

S.-L. Yang: collection and interpretation of data, manuscript drafting. X. Han: collection and interpretation of data. Q. Dong: supervision, critical revision of manuscript.

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Disclosure

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

Reference

1. Déjerine J. Contribution à l'étude anatomopathologique et clinique des différents variétés de cécité verbale[J] [in French]. *Mémoires de la Société de Biologie* 1892;4: 61–90.

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