

## Neuropsychological and Neuroimaging Findings of Frontal Variant of Alzheimer's Disease

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**Background** : Patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) at an early stage present with memory decline and impairments of language and visuospatial functions. However, some AD patients occasionally show frontal lobe dysfunctions in the early stage those are known to emerge only at the advanced stage. This subtype of AD is called a frontal variant of AD (frontal AD). We report neuropsychological and FDG-PET findings of three cases of frontal AD. **Methods** : Three patients met the diagnostic criteria of probable AD proposed by the NINCDS-ADRDA. However, they unusually showed clinical symptoms associated with frontal lobe dysfunctions even if they were relatively in the early stage of dementia. All the patients underwent neuropsychological tests and brain FDG-PET scans. Distribution of glucose hypometabolism was analyzed using statistical parametric mappings (SPM). **Results** : Results of neuropsychological tests were consistent with findings of AD except that frontal lobe dysfunctions were prominent. FDG-PET scans and SPM analysis of these images showed hypometabolism in the frontal as well as temporo-parietal regions. Unlike the hypometabolism pattern found in frontotemporal dementia, frontal hypometabolism in our patients was not as severe as parietal hypometabolism and hypometabolic regions within the temporal lobe were in the middle or posterior part of the middle and inferior temporal gyri rather than in the anterior part. **Conclusions** : Detailed neuropsychological tests and FDG-PET may help differentiate AD with frontal involvement in its early stage (frontal AD) from frontotemporal dementia. Future studies with FDG-PET in a larger series of frontal AD cases, especially with histologically proven cases, may be needed.

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**Key Words** : Alzheimer's disease, Frontal lobe, Neuropsychological test, FDG-PET, SPM, Frontotemporal dementia

(Alzheimer's disease, AD)

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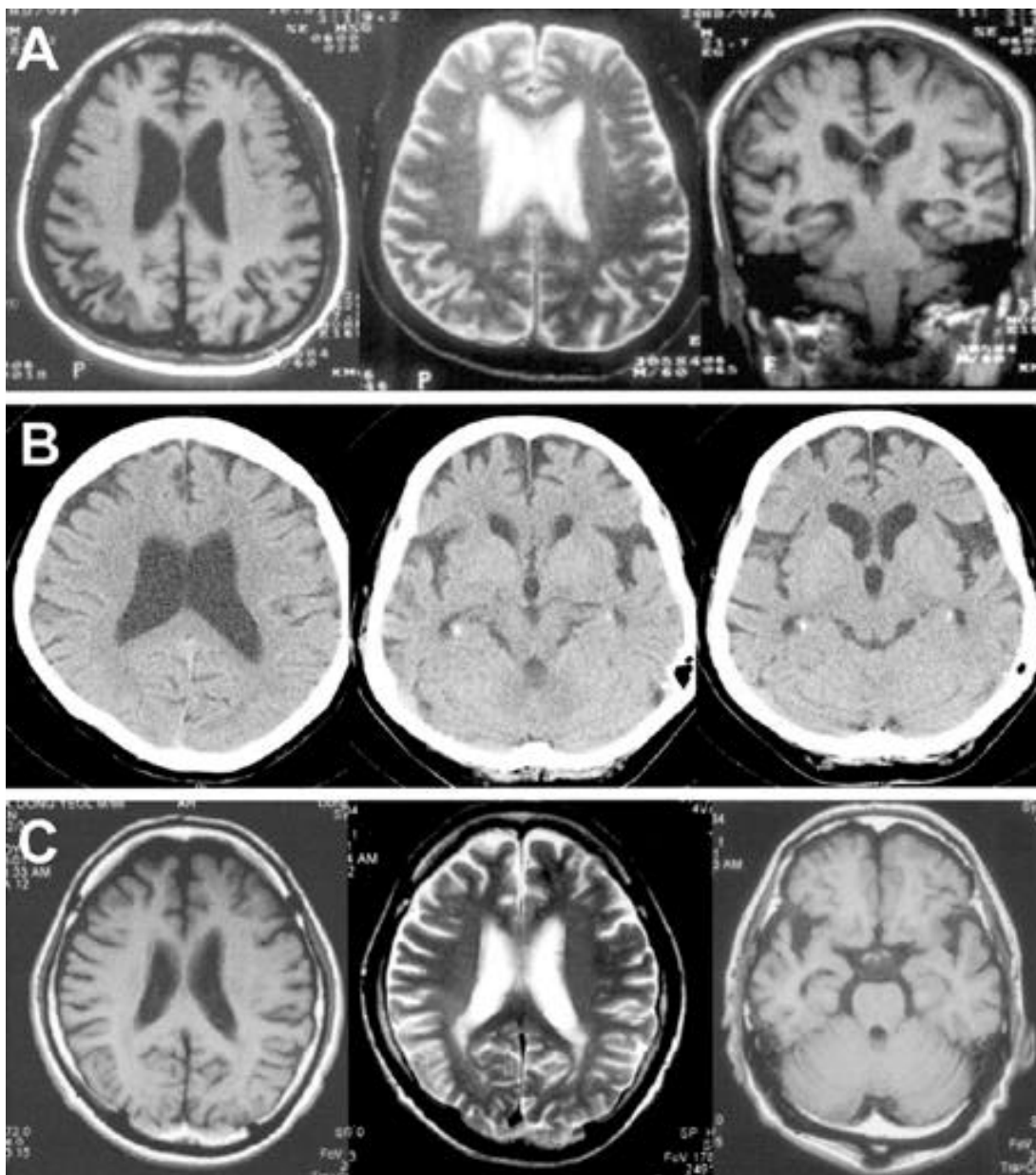
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 AD  
 AD visual variant of AD . 4,5  
 가 6-8 가  
 9 right hemispheric AD, left  
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 primary progressive apraxia  
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 가  
 AD 가 AD(frontal variant  
 of AD, frontal AD) . 11,12 Frontal AD  
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 frontal AD  
 . statistical  
 parametric mapping( SPM)  
 (fluorine-18-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emis-  
 sion tomography, FDG-PET)

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**Figure 1.** Brain CT or MR images of the patients with probable frontal AD. A; Case 1, B; Case 2, C; Case 3.

**Table 1.** Results of neuropsychological test

| Cognitive domain / Neuropsychologic test                                  | Case 1         | Case2         | Case3          |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Attention   |                |               |                |
| Digit span: Forward/ backward   | 4/2            | 4/3           | 3/2            |
| Letter cancellation   | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Language & related functions  |                |               |                |
| Fluency   | Fluent         | Fluent        | Fluent         |
| Auditory comprehension  | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Repetition  | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Naming (K-BNT)  | 19/60 (<1%ile) | 37/60 (2%ile) | 41/60 (91%ile) |
| Reading   | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Writing   | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Calculation   | Abnormal       | Normal        | Normal         |
| Finger naming   | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Right-left orientation  | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Body part identification  | Normal         | Normal        | Normal         |
| Praxis  | Abnormal       | Abnormal      | Normal         |
| Visuospatial functions  |                |               |                |
| Interlocking pentagon   | Abnormal       | Normal        | Abnormal       |
| Rey figure copy   | 2/36           | 18/36         | 6.5/36         |
| Memory  |                |               |                |
| Orientation : Time/ Place (5/5)   | 0/1            | 1/5           | 2/5            |
| Remote memory : naming the presidents (5)                                 | 0              | 4             | 3              |
| 3 words registration / recall   | 3/0            | 3/0           | 3/2            |
| SVLT:   |                |               |                |
| Free recall   |                |               |                |
| (1 <sup>st</sup> +2 <sup>nd</sup> +3 <sup>rd</sup> =total)/delayed recall | 1+2+3=6/0      | 1+0+3=4/0     | 4+7+5=16/4     |
| Recognition   |                |               |                |
| (true positive-false positive)  | 0-2            | 6-7           | 12-10          |
| Rey Figure  |                |               |                |
| Immediate recall/delayed recall   | 0/0            | 18/7.5        | 3/3.5          |
| Recognition   |                |               |                |
| (true positive-false positive)  | 11-9           | 1-11          | 12-12          |
| Frontal / Executive Function  |                |               |                |
| Contrasting program   | Abnormal       | Abnormal      | Abnormal       |
| Go-no-go test   | Abnormal       | Abnormal      | Abnormal       |
| Fist-edge-palm  | Abnormal       | Abnormal      | Abnormal       |
| Alternating hand movement   | Abnormal       | Abnormal      | Abnormal       |
| Alternating square and triangle   | Abnormal       | Abnormal      | Normal         |
| Luria loop  | Abnormal       | Normal        | Abnormal       |
| Semantic word fluency:  |                |               |                |
| Animals/Supermarket items   | 4/0            | 6/6           | 7/6            |
| Phonemic word fluency : ㄱ/ㄴ/ㅇ   | 0/0/0          | 1/1/0         | 2/7/2          |
| Stroop test:  |                |               |                |
| Word reading: correct/incorrect   | 35/18          | 62/0          | 41/0           |
| Color naming: correct/incorrect   | 0/0            | 7/30          | 3/29           |
| General Index   |                |               |                |
| MMSE  | 11/30          | 20/30         | 22/30          |
| CDR   | 2              | 0.5           | 1              |
| GDS   | 5              | 3             | 4              |

K-BNT; Korean Version of the Boston Naming Test, SVLT; Seoul Verbal Learning Test, COWAT; Controlled Oral Word Association Test, MMSE; Mini-mental Status Examination, CDR, Clinical dementia rating, GDS; Global deterioration scale

3. SNSB(Seoul Neuro-psychological Screening Battery) (digit span), (meatal line) PET gantry, 370 MBq [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]FDG 30, [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]FDG 30 20, PET 0.06 cycles/pixel cut-off frequency 가 Hanning filter

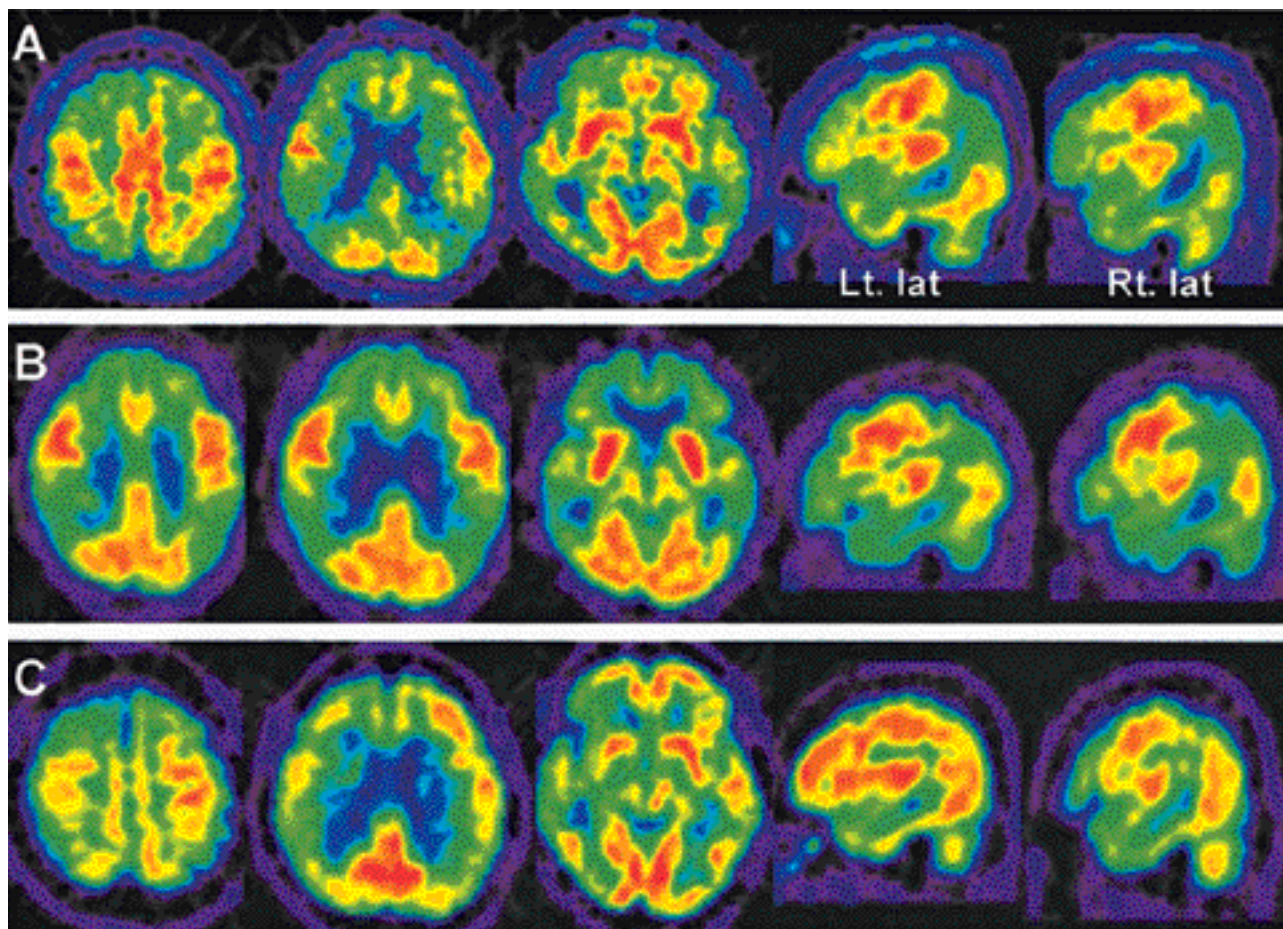
(Contrasting program, go-no-go test, fist-edge-palm, Alternating square & triangle, Luria loop, Stroop ) (Table 1).

K-BNT K-MMSE clinical dementia rating(CDR), global deterioration scale(GDS) 가

4. FDG-PET SPM

1) PET GE advanced PET (General Electric, Milwaukee, WI)( 4.9 mm FWHM, 3.9 mm FWHM) 6 (orbite PET

2) SPM PET SPM99 (Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology, University College London, UK) PET Analyze SPM99 PET (spatial normalization) 16 mm FWHM 가 (Gaussian kernel) (convolu- tion)



**Figure 2.** Brain FDG-PET findings of the patients with probable frontal AD. A; Case 1, B; Case 2, C; Case 3.

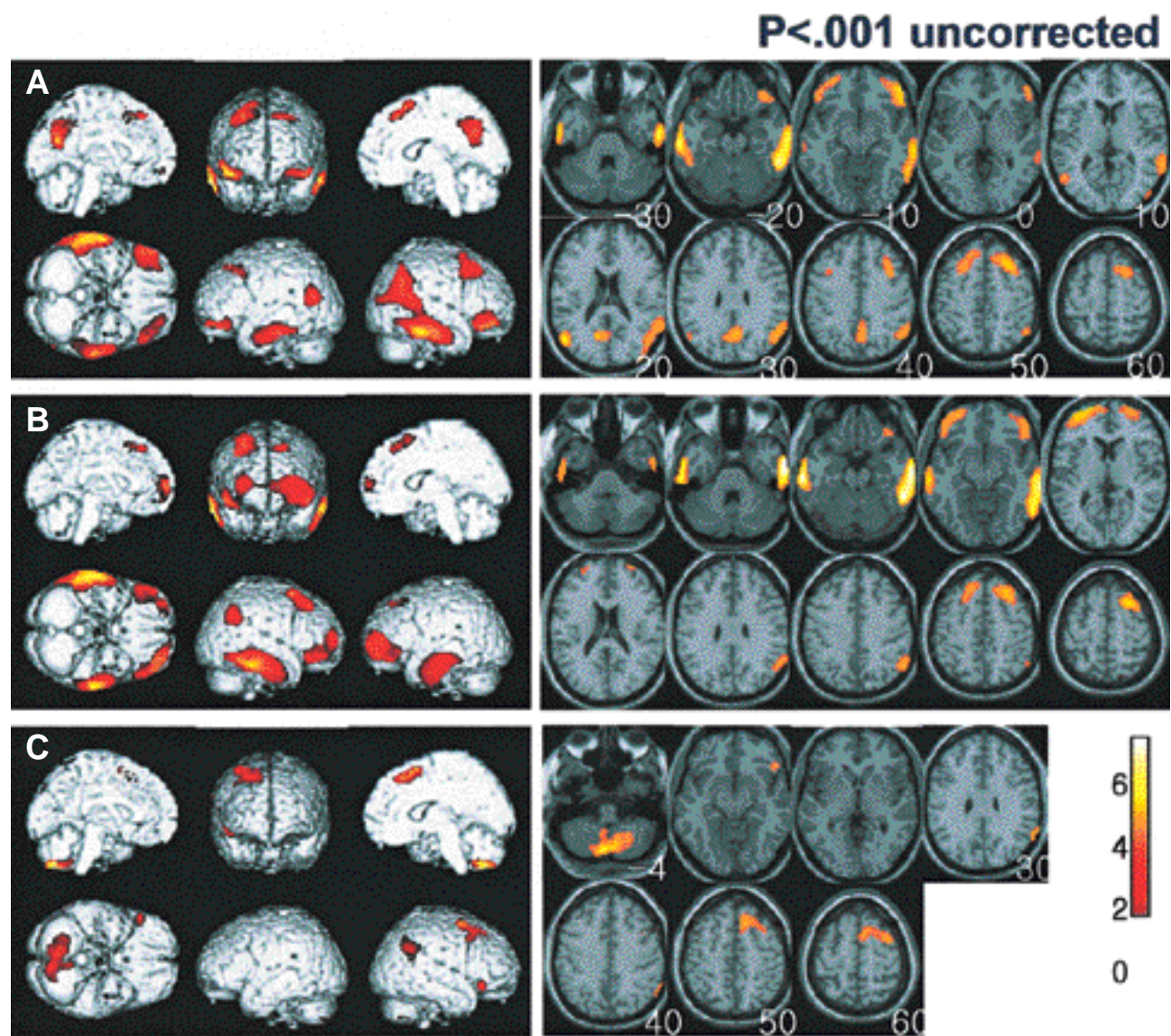
(normalization)

PET voxel-by-voxel  
compare-population two sample t-test  
Z  
가 100 cluster  
SPM MR template  
(Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Canada) rendering image

(Table 1).

2. FDG-PET  
1) FDG-PET  
가 1  
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가 가 2  
(Fig. 2B).  
가 3  
(Fig. 2C).  
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가

2) SPM  
FDG-PET 11 PET



**Figure 3.** SPM analysis results of brain FDG-PET findings of the patients with probable frontal AD. Rendering (left column) and axial (right column) images display the regions of hypometabolism compared with normal subjects. A; Case 1, B; Case 2, C; Case 3.

SPM 1 (cingulate gyrus) (Fig. 3A). 2 criteria<sup>18</sup> probable AD PET AD (Fig. 3B). 3 2 3 가 AD (Fig. 3C). 가 1 CDR 2 FTD 가 AD . AD 가 AD . AD PET CDR , CDR 0.5 1 19 가 가 CDR 2 Morris<sup>20</sup> CDR 2 5 5 가 1 AD 3 (CDR 1) 가 . frontal AD Frontal AD AD 가 24,25 SPECT PET 가 26,27 Binetti<sup>11</sup> 25 AD 7 12 Johnson 3 frontal variant of AD frontal AD 가 AD 14% . Frontal AD AD 가 (neurofibrillary tangle)가 FTD 가 frontal AD FTD가 AD 가 AD 59, 61, 67 AD . frontal AD frontal AD FDG-

PET . SPM

SPM

AD 가 ) 가

3 . AD

diaschisis

28, 29

FDG-PET 17, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27

frontal AD PET PET

frontal AD

AD가

ant . frontal vari-

FTD

MRI, PET

AD 가

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