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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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가
 가^{2,3}
 AD
 AD visual variant of AD
 가^{4,5}
 9 right hemispheric AD, left
 hemispheric AD
 primary progressive apraxia
 AD
 AD
 AD of AD, frontal AD) AD(frontal variant
 10^{11,12} Frontal AD
 frontal AD
 statistical
 parametric mapping(SPM)
 (fluorine-18-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography, FDG-PET)

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 NINCDS-ADRDA probable AD
 AD
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 3) CT MRI
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(Fig. 1A).

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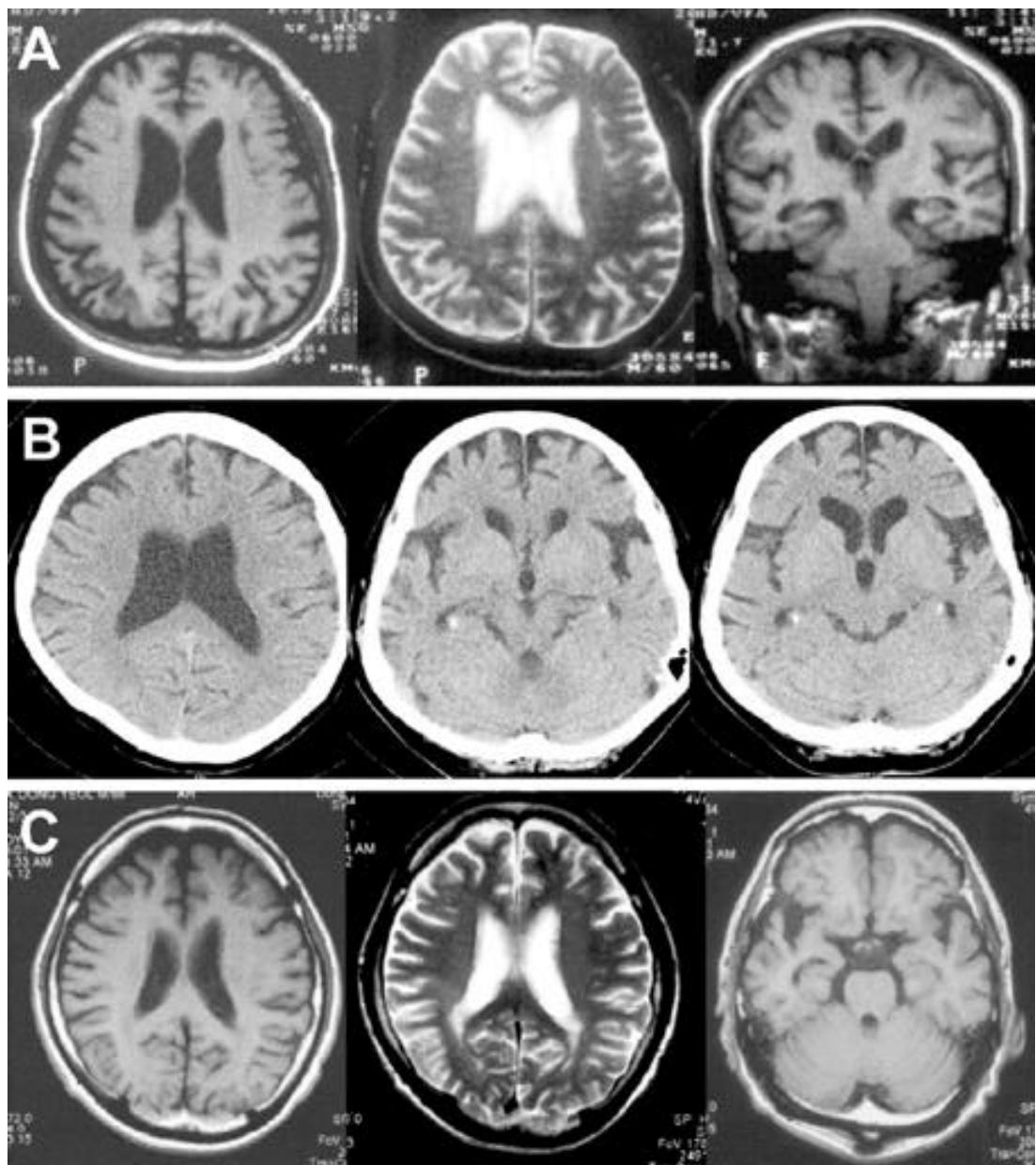


Figure 1. Brain CT or MR images of the patients with probable frontal AD. A; Case 1, B; Case 2, C; Case 3.

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 st +2 nd +3 rd =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/ㅅ/ㆁ	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) SNSB (digit span), (, , , , , , , , (Seoul Verbal Learning Test [SVLT], , , , (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 meatal line) PET gantry 370 MBq [¹⁸F]FDG 30 [¹⁸F]FDG 30 20 PET 0.06 cycles/pixel cut-off frequency 가 Hanning filter

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) (convolution)

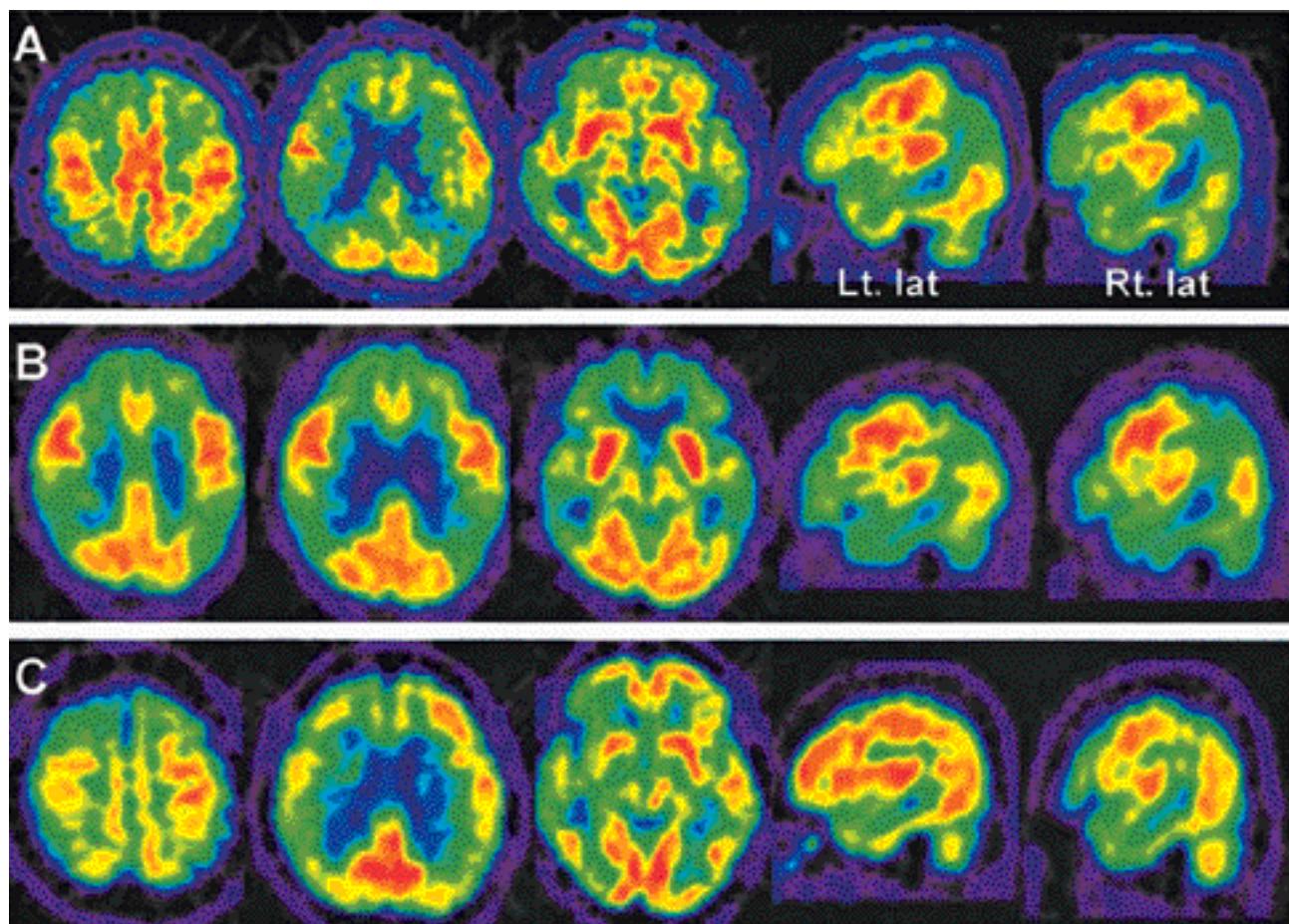


Figure 2. Brain FDG-PET findings of the patients with probable frontal AD. A; Case 1, B; Case 2, C; Case 3.

(normalization)

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(Table 1).

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

2. FDG-PET SPM

1) FDG-PET

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가 (Fig. 2A).

가 가 2

(Fig. 2B).

가

3

가 (Fig. 2C).

가

1.

가 , ,

2) SPM

FDG-PET

11 PET

P<.001 uncorrected

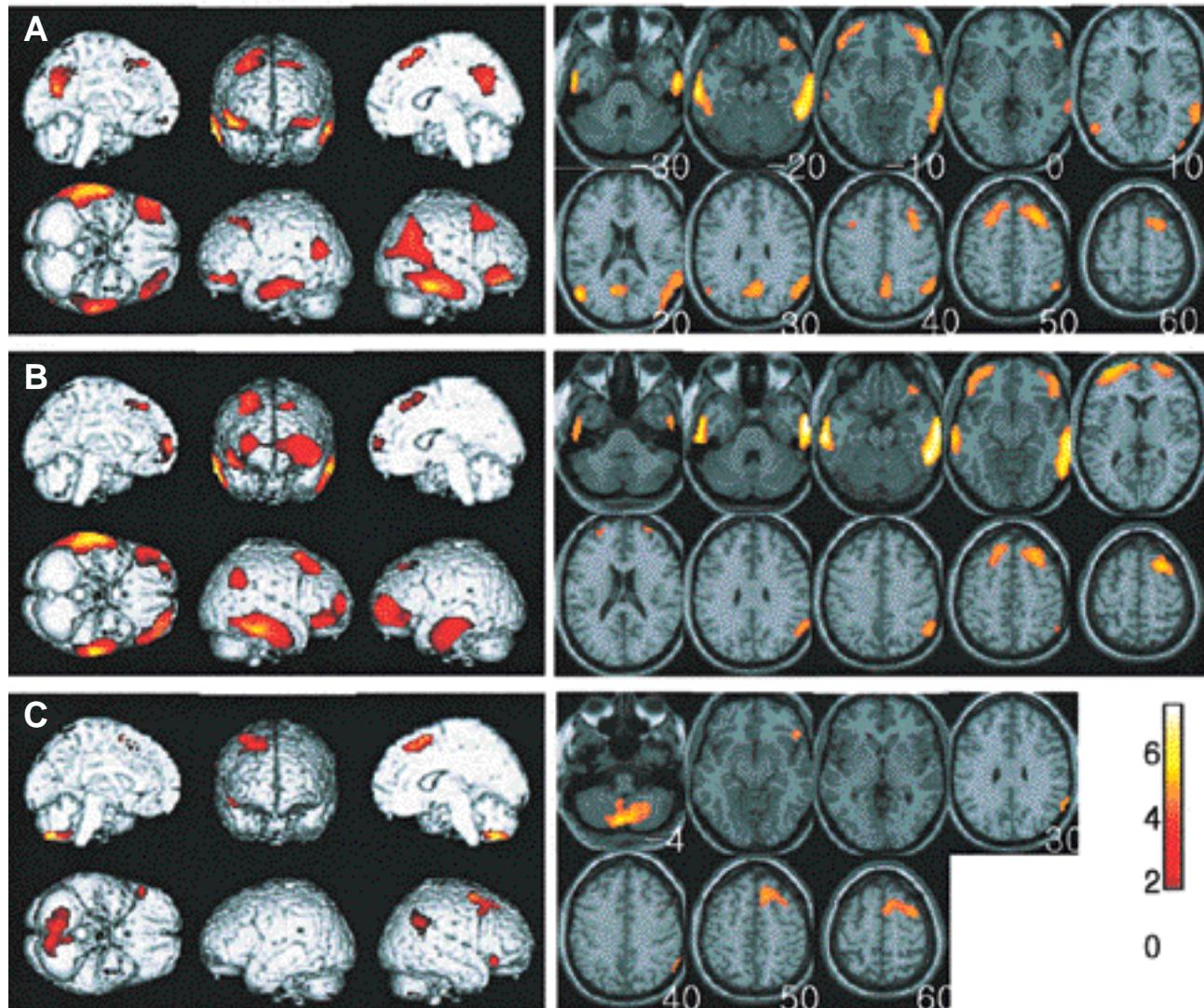


Figure 3. SPM analysis results of brain FDG-PET findings of the patients with probable frontal AD. Rendering (left column) and axial (right column) images display the regions of hypometabolism compared with normal subjects. A; Case 1, B; Case 2, C; Case 3.

PET	SPM	
SPM	가	
AD	가)
3		가
		AD
	diaschisis	
	28,29	
FDG-PET		
	17,19,22,23,26,27	
	frontal AD	
	PET	PET
	frontal AD	
AD가		frontal vari-
ant	FTD	
,	MRI, PET	
	AD	가

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