



A Brief Overview on Causes and Diagnosis of Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration

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identification of characteristic symptoms, a detailed patient and family history, a thorough clinical assessment and a variety of specialized tests. A neuropsychological assessment involves an interview and certain tests, often pencil and paper type tests. This evaluation will allow the doctor to survey behavior, language, memory, visual-spatial and other cognitive functions. Early in the route of the disorder, people with behavioral variant of frontotemporal degeneration generally tend to perform well on neuropsychological testing.

Clinical Testing and Workup

Specialized imaging techniques may include magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET) scans. An MRI uses a magnetic field and radio waves to supply cross-sectional images of particular organs and bodily tissues consisting of the brain. In SPECT [1-4], physicians use a radioactive substance and a special camera to create 3-d images of internal areas of the brain. SPECT can monitor characteristic changes such as reduced blood flow in sure areas of the brain. In PET scans of the brain, a radioactive atom is joined to glucose (blood sugar). This allows doctors to see the chemical activity (digestion system) within the brain. Individuals with frontotemporal degeneration exhibit reduced chemical activity (hypo-

References

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