

Webinar 5

Brain Injury and Criminal Behavior: Mood Regulation after Brain Injury and a Case Study



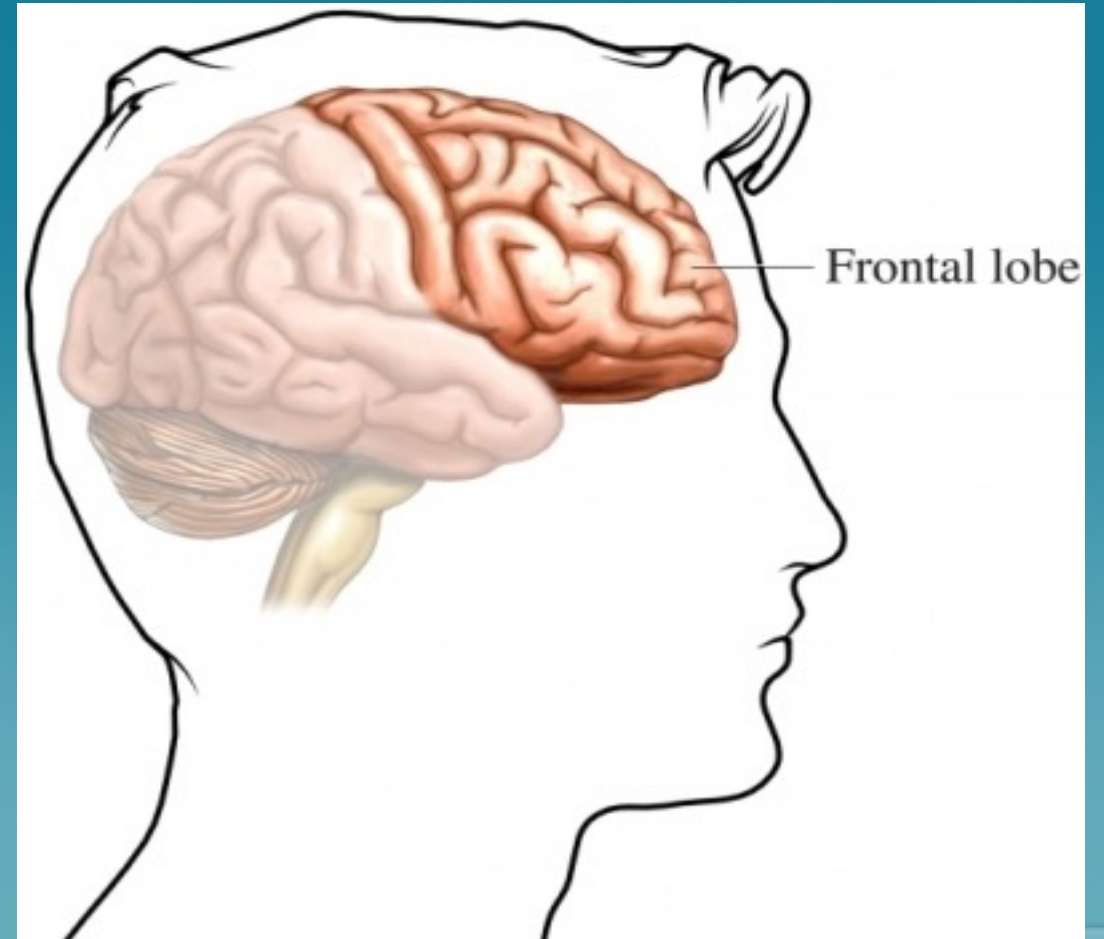
These webinars were developed because as many as 60-70% of people who are in prison have had a brain injury, and the brain injury may have a lot to do with how they ended up in prison. We need to understand brain injury so that we can better help them adjust in prison and stay out of prison once they are released.

In this webinar, we will address:

1. How brain injury results in
 - a) impulsive behavior, and
 - b) mood dysregulation
2. Some simple tips to help manage them

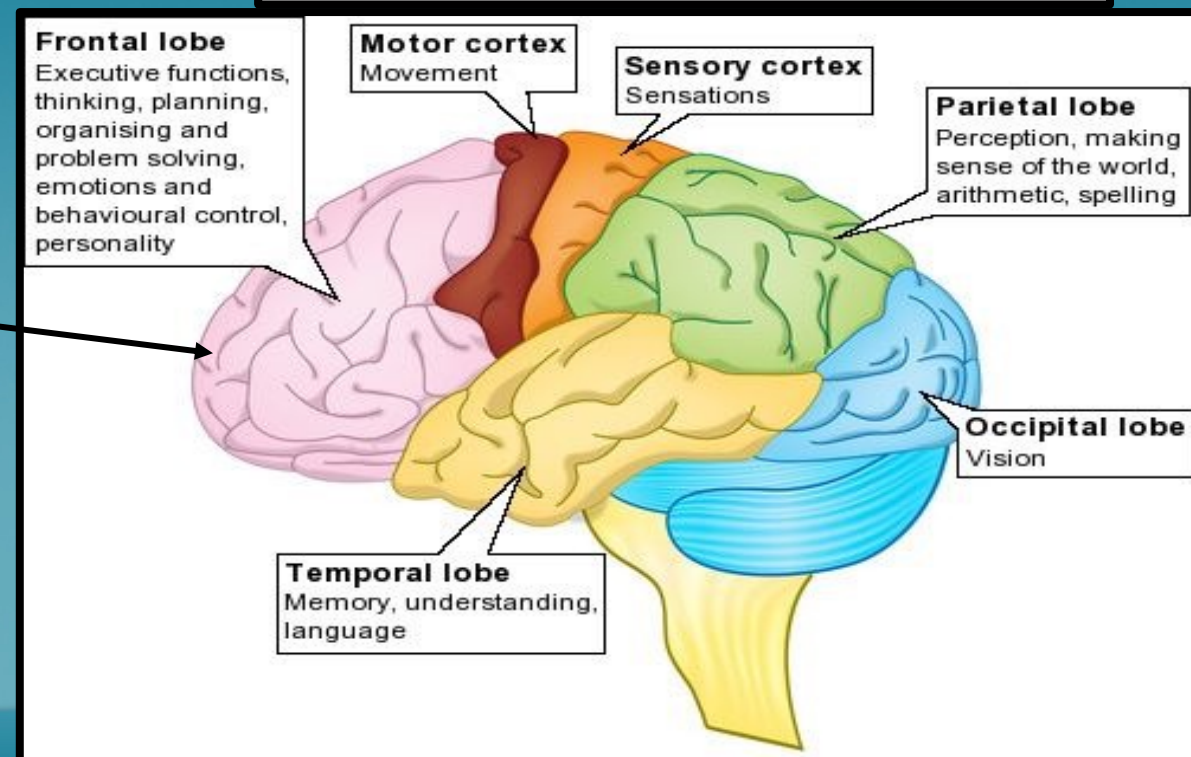
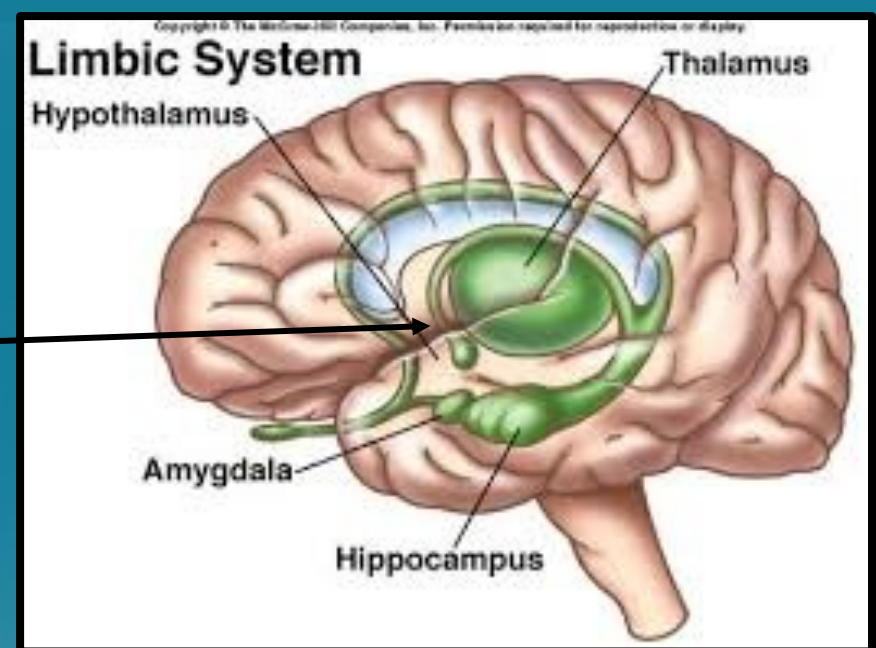
A Refresher: Frontal Lobe Function

- Frontal lobes are the largest in man.
- Frontal lobes don't fully develop until the early 20's.
- The functions of the frontal lobes are the most complex but the most important to adapt in life.
- Frontal lobe functions are very frequently effected by brain damage.



Frontal Lobes Organize Our Behavior

- The limbic system is the source for our drives and emotions.
- The frontal lobes make sure that we express our drives and emotions in a socially-appropriate way.
- Frontal lobes are like the brakes for the limbic system.
- Frontal lobe damage results in socially inappropriate behavior.

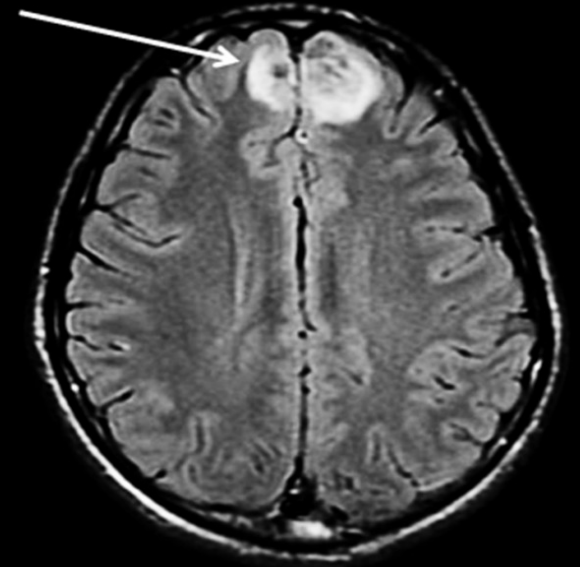


Frontal Lobe Damage

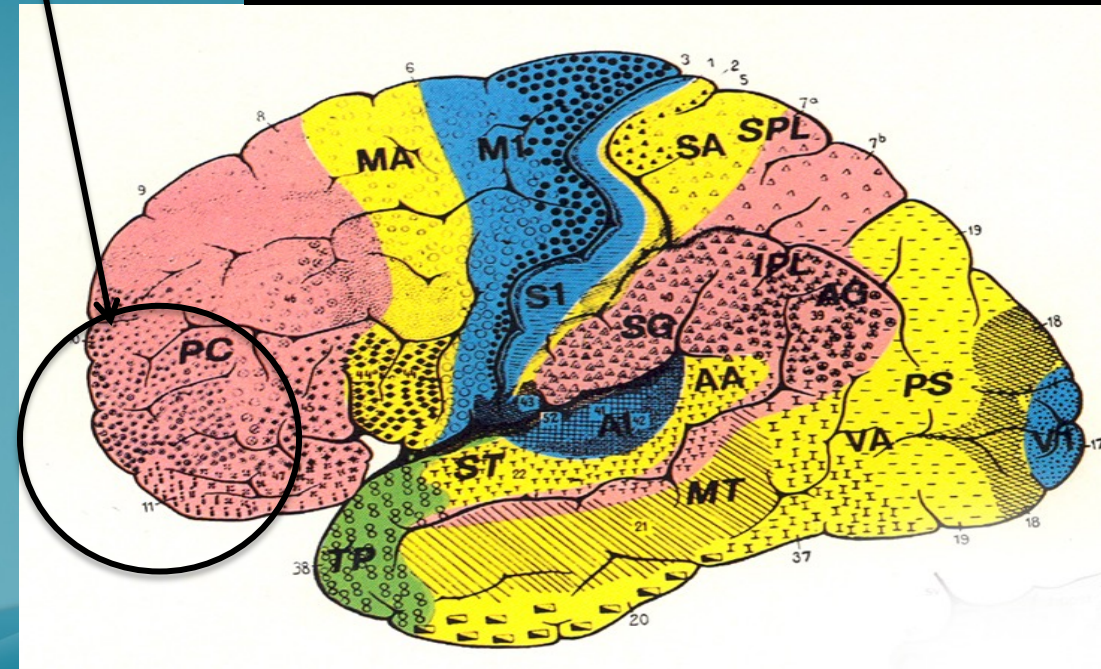
Causes:

- Disinhibition and impulsivity: Doing things you want to do but know you shouldn't
- Hyperkinetic: Can't sit still or concentrate, and irritability
- Jocular: Thinking something is funny when it isn't
- Intensification of moods (0 to 10 in one second)
- Rapid mood changes that last a minute, an hour, or a week

BILATERAL FRONTAL LOBE CONTUSIONS



Frontal lobe



Misattributions about Behavior after Frontal Lobe Injury

- “Not cooperative”
- “Not motivated”
- “Over-react”
- “Difficult”
- “Rigid” – “not flexible”
- “Unrealistic”
- “Doesn’t follow through”

Case Study

Clinical History for “Jennifer”

- 49 year old Caucasian female.
- Completed 14 years of school – Has High School Diploma & Dental Assistant Diploma.
- Worked as property manager for many years in multiple employment settings.
- Has 2 children (estranged relationships).

Medical History

- Probable multiple concussions from parental abuse from toddler to 9th grade.
- Brain Injury (with loss of consciousness) in 8th grade from being assaulted by 5 females.
- 2004 - Treatment for Cocaine addiction at Fairbanks and Behavior Corps.
- 2014 - Motorcycle accident - Moderate/Severe Brain Injury with memory impairment and executive function impairments.

Criminal History

- 2003: OWI Charge
- 2015-2016: Six theft charges after Moderate/Severe TBI in 2014 including shop-lifting and taking money from place of work
- Entered stores never been in & stole items not needed (salt and pepper shakers, towels, etc.)

Neuropsychological Test Results

- Average overall intellectual functioning
- Effort good on all tests
- Left frontal-temporal brain damage
 - Impaired ability to name objects (1st %ile)
 - Impaired verbal comprehension (4th %ile)
 - Impaired verbal memory (5th %ile)
 - Impaired working memory

Psychological Test Results

- Severe anxiety and depression
- Mood dysregulation deficit
- Worthless, inept and uncertain self-image
- Emotionally immature
- Difficulties trusting others

Video of Jennifer

Management of Frontal Mood Dysregulation

- Remember, it's their brain damage talking/behaving, not them.
- Don't argue – it won't make any difference.
- Take a break and use relaxation techniques.
- Consult a physician who specializes in brain injury.

What are the Main Points?

- The frontal lobes regulate our emotions (they apply logic and problem-solving to our emotions).
- Damage to the frontal lobes results in personality change, especially impulsivity and intensification of moods.
- People with frontal lobe damage have trouble inhibiting, or doing something even when they know they shouldn't.
- Frontal lobe impairments usually get misdiagnosed as psychiatric problems (e.g., bipolar or psychosis NOS).

In The Next Webinar, We Will Address:

- Common misunderstandings about brain injury
- Additional resources about brain injury



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