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Posterior cortical atrophy: themes, challenges and management

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is often perceived as a disorder largely or solely of memory. However, the disease also affects the visual areas of the brain leading to problems seeing what and where things are. Dementia-related visual impairment tends to be neglected, partly owing to the assumption that any visual problems are due to the eyes rather than the brain, and because such problems may occur at a point when language and other skills are too impaired for the person with dementia to articulate their visual symptoms. Visual impairment in AD has received increased attention through the syndrome Posterior Cortical Atrophy (PCA) which is typically caused by AD but presents with dramatic impairment of vision in contrast to relatively spared memory. This presentation will feature themes and challenges particularly regarding the neuropsychology of PCA, functional consequences and developing approaches to support people living with PCA and dementia related visual impairment.