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History of Neuropsychology Through Epilepsy Eyes

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Abstract

In the 19th century, Hughlings Jackson relied on clinical history, seizure semiology, and the neurologic examination as methods for seizure localization to inform the first epilepsy surgeries. In the 20th century, psychological and neuropsychological tests were first employed as both diagnostic and prognostic measures. The contemporary practice of epilepsy evaluation and management includes neuropsychology as a critical component of epilepsy care and research, and epilepsy and neuropsychology have enjoyed a very special and synergistic relationship. This paper reviews how epilepsy has shaped the practice of neuropsychology as a clinical service by asking critical questions that only neuropsychologists were in a position to answer, and how clinical care of epilepsy patients has been significantly improved based on neuropsychology's unique contributions.

Keywords: Epilepsy; Assessment

Introduction

Most historians consider the modern era of epilepsy to begin with the British neurologist John Hughlings Jackson's 1870 pamphlet "A study of convulsions." In this monograph, Jackson describes focal motor seizures ("convulsions beginning unilaterally") as originating in localized areas of the contralateral hemisphere rather than in the medulla, which had been thought to be the origin of epilepsy (Eadie, 2007). Jackson's 1875 description of the "march" of focal motor seizures corresponding to seizure spread along the sensorimotor homunculus is a well-known phenomenon to most neuropsychologists, even those whose practice does involve epilepsy specialization. His conceptualization of a dynamic interaction between focal seizures and distal effects outside the seizure focus not only affected the current understanding of focal perturbations in complex brain networks, but also provided the theoretical rationale for surgical treatment of epilepsy. Because Jackson believed that focal and generalized seizures both arose from a focal abnormality ("discharge lesion"), he reasoned that removing this focal abnormality would eliminate the cause of the seizures and result in a seizure cure (York & Steinberg, 2009).

Jackson's hypothesis that all epilepsy was focal in onset was critical in informing the initial epilepsy surgery cases. Sir Victor Horsley, the surgeon who performed the first epilepsy surgery in 1886 (Horsley, 1886), had conducted multiple animal procedures to refine his surgical technique and surgical methodology (Fig. 1). Horsley also developed the first stereo-tactic head frame for use in animals with Robert Henry Clarke in 1906 (Horsley–Clarke frame [HCF]), which was used for electrode implantation many years later in 1947 at the University of Illinois (Jensen, Stone, & Hayne, 1995). Horsley also introduced bone wax to seal skull edges and developed the c-shaped or comma-shaped (rather than cruciform) incision, both of which promoted recovery and minimized infection. Unlike most surgical interventions at that time involving emergent treatments that were primarily reactive in application, Horsley approached epilepsy surgery in a methodological and cautious fashion and benefited from the surgical technique that he developed in part from his animal procedures.

Horsley's first epilepsy surgery patient (James B.) was a 15-year-old male who had post-traumatic epilepsy from a depressed skull fracture sustained during a traffic accident when he was 7 years old. In 1885, he developed episodes of "Jacksonian" or

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Fig. 1. Sir Victor Horsley (1857-1916). Horsley was 29 years old when he performed his first epilepsy surgery on patient B. James, who was 22 years old.



Fig. 2. John Hughlings Jackson (1835–1911).

simple partial status epilepticus. Because the localizing value of seizure activity arising from the sensorimotor region had been well described by Jackson, and because the pattern of behavioral seizure expression corresponded to the patient's skull fracture and cortical scar, Horsley and Jackson were confident that the seizure onset occurred in the contralateral sensorimotor strip (Fig. 2). On May 25, 1886, Horsley operated to remove the cortical scar, and James B. became seizure-free. Jackson and David Ferrier, the Scottish neurologist whose work included extensive research into cortical stimulation in animals, both observed the surgery (despite the rather stodgy appearance in photographs [Fig. 1], Jackson apparently had a whimsical sense of humor—following James B.'s operation, Jackson remarked to Ferrier that Horsley missed the opportunity place a joke in a Scotsman's head! [Taylor, 1987]).

Horsley's second surgical case (Thomas W.) is more remarkable because seizure localization was not based on an identifiable skull defect or cortical scar. Jackson had observed Ferrier's cortical stimulation experiments in monkeys and noted that the induced motor response was identical to the movements in one of his patients during a seizure and inferred that seizure onset must have originated from the cortical hand region. Horsley operated on Thomas W. without any additional localizing information other than seizure semiology (including no neuropsychology!) and became seizure-free post-operatively following the resection of a tuberculoma (Taylor, 1987). Thus, Jackson's description of sensorimotor regions established functional localization within the cerebral cortex, and his belief that the all epilepsy had a focal onset provided the theoretical rationale to guide the initial surgical treatment of epilepsy.

Early Cognition Studies

In the 19th century and without adequate seizure treatments, epilepsy was considered to result in progressive cognitive decline and dementia. Formal studies of cognition in epilepsy did not begin to appear until the late 19th century and early 20th century. One of first English studies compared two epilepsy groups ("comparatively normal" and "marked dementia") with healthy controls across a battery of tests that appears remarkably similar to contemporary neuropsychology practice (Smith, 1905). Cognitive measures included tests of "recognition, immediate memory, sensory discrimination, reactions involving movement and choice, as well as rhythmic movement," and Smith made multiple observations that still resonate within contemporary neuropsychology. To test memory, both word and picture tasks were administered. Recognition memory was assessed by combining an equal number of foils with the target stimuli. Smith reported that patients not only performed more poorly recognizing words than pictures, but also that epilepsy patients with dementia showed even greater impairment in "confusion between old and new" due to their greater frequency of false-positive errors. Commenting on the ecological validity of his findings, Smith remarked "everyone forgets many things from day to day, while errors of confusion occur relatively seldom and are much more noticeable when they do occur."

The first US study of cognition in epilepsy, and the first "psychometric" report, appeared in 1912 (Wallin, 1912a), only 4 years after Henry Goddard translated the Binet–Simon intelligence scales into English (Hermann, 2010). The Binet–Simon scale characterized intelligence by mental age (MA), with individuals with MA <3 years labeled "idiot," those with MA between 3 and 7 years termed "imbecile," and those with MA between 7 and 10 years classified as "moron" (a word Goddard derived from the Greek word "moros" meaning "foolish"). In addition to using standardized testing to assess cognition relative to a normative standard, this study is one of the earliest to employ a positive control group rather than healthy "normal" controls. Wallin was interested in how patients with epilepsy differed from a comparable institutionalized group and chose "feeble-minded patients," or individuals most likely to be considered developmentally delayed in current nomenclature. In this series, there was less overall cognitive impairment in patients with epilepsy compared with feeble-minded patients (i.e., fewer "idiots" and more "morons"; Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. The 1905 graph indicating an overall higher level of functining on the Binet–Simon test for patients with epilepsy compared with institutionalized patients with developmental disabilities (Smith, 1905).

Modern Era of Epilepsy Surgery

The maturation of epilepsy surgery as a viable treatment option for medically refractory epilepsy began at roughly the same time at three major epilepsy centers: The University of Illinois, the University of London, and the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI)/McGill University. At all three locations, there was close collaboration among the neurosurgeon, neurologist (or electrophysiologist), and neuropsychologist. Although the MNI's contributions to the development of contemporary neuropsychology are well known, in part reflecting the continuity of their program, all three epilepsy surgery programs made important discoveries informing the neuropsychology of epilepsy.

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University of Illinois

The University of Illinois epilepsy program was led by the neurosurgeon Percival Bailey and the neurologist/neurophysiologist Frederic Gibbs. While at the University of Chicago, one of Bailey's residents was Paul Bucy, and consequently, Bailey aware the Klüver–Bucy syndrome (visual agnosia, hypersexuality, diminished emotional responsivity, and memory impairment; Klüver & Bucy, 1939). Damage to hippocampal gyrus and hippocampus were considered critical in producing the Klüver–Bucy behavioral change, and these structures were not included by Bailey in surgical resection in order to minimize the likelihood of developing the post-operative Klüver–Bucy symptoms. Bailey's decision to exclude mesial temporal lobe structures in his resections likely accounts for poorer surgical outcomes in the University of Illinois series compared with other contemporary epilepsy surgery programs (Hermann & Stone, 1989).

It is difficult for neuropsychologists relying on MRI to help inform clinical case formulations to imagine the state of neurodiagnostics during the 1950s. Surgical patients at the University of Illinois were selected based on EEG alone, and the EEG technology at that time had few resemblances to current recording capabilities. Most EEG polygraphs had a maximum of eight channels in the late 1950s, and video EEG monitoring was years away. Thus, along with the Montreal Neurological Institute, the University of Illinois transitioned epilepsy surgery away from purely lesion-directed surgery practiced by Horsley to EEG-directed surgery (Engel, 1993).

Neuropsychology. Owing to the program's proximity to the University of Chicago, Bailey had his patients evaluated pre- and post-operatively by Ward Halstead with his battery of neuropsychological measures. Although he published only a single report (Halstead, 1958), Halstead's neuropsychological findings established that epilepsy surgery did not result in generalized cognitive decline as reflected by the absence of any significant change in the Impairment Index. Further, Halstead described significant post-operative *improvement* in the Category Test, Tactual Form Board Memory, and Speech Discrimination Index. "An improvement in performance on most indicators is observed after anterior temporal lobectomy (ATL), but impairment in relation to normal performance is still seen on some tests." Importantly, "no *severe* deficits attributable to surgical intervention are revealed in these cases." Thus, Halstead's data demonstrated that successfully surgical treatment did not have to result in significant post-operative cognitive decline.

The HCF, which had been developed for animal use in 1906, was first used in humans at the University of Illinois in 1947 for depth electrode implantation (Jensen et al., 1995; Fig. 4). Subcortical depth electrodes were placed using the relationship between external landmarks and intracranial structures and confirmed by pneumoencephalography.

University of London/Guy's Maudsley Hospital

The University of London is probably the least well-known program outside of epilepsy surgery circles and was directed by the neurosurgeon Murray Falconer. Falconer developed *en bloc* resections of the temporal lobe the facilitated pathological studies and identified hippocampal pathology as being critical for clinical outcome (Meador, Loring, & Flaningin, 1989). Victor Meyer and Aubrey Yates were the psychology members of that program.

Meyer and Yates reported greater surgical effects for paired-associated learning compared with other psychological measures including a New Word Learning and Retention Test or 24 h retention (Meyer & Yates, 1955). This early report indicates the sensitivity of paired-associated learning to hippocampal dysfunction and anticipated contemporary theories of hippocampal function as a critical structure involved in "binding" associations (Fig. 5).

Important observations by this group still reflect much of what we currently anticipate with neuropsychologist assessment. "Contrary to expectations, the group with operation on the nondominant temporal lobe failed to lower scores on nonverbal tests." In addition, "the operation on the dominant side results in a severe deficit of auditory learning." Important findings were also made about the distinction between linguistic capacity and verbal memory. "Despite the considerable amount of recovery from the manifest dysphasic disturbances a year after the operation, the auditory-verbal-learning impairment



Fig. 4. The Horsley–Clarke frame. Although designed for animals, it was used for depth human electrode placement in 1947 at the University of Illinois (Jensen et al., 1995).

1	No. of Associations Correct on Final Trial			
Subject	Easy		Difficult	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
Dominant 4 5 6 7 8 12	6 5 6 5 6	5 5 2 4 4 5	4 2 1 4 3	100000000
Means	5-67	4.17	3-00	0-17
Non-dominant 9 10	6	6	4	1
Means	6	6	4	4

Fig. 5. First reported effects illustrating sensitivity of hard-word paired-associate learning to dominant hemisphere resection. Although there is a mild postoperative decline seen in the easy-word pairs following dominant hemisphere resection, the decline in hard-word pairs is of much greater magnitude. No postoperative decline is noted in the two patients underling right temporal resection (Meyer & Yates, 1955).

persists." Unlike the MNI discussed below, there were no special precautions employed at the time of surgery such as functional stimulation mapping that were used explicitly to decrease the likelihood of post-operative language morbidity.

Montreal Neurological Institute/McGill University

The contributions of the MNI to neuropsychology and epilepsy surgery evaluation are unparalleled among epilepsy centers, with the MNI responsible for developing many techniques and approaches that continue to be widely employed. The interest in developing a multidisciplinary approach in order to better understand the effects of epilepsy and epilepsy surgery was primarily driven by their surgeon, Wilder Penfield (Penfield & Jasper, 1954), and this multidisciplinary approach to epilepsy patient evaluation and management remains perhaps his longest enduring legacy. The Montreal Neurological Institute of McGill University, co-founded by Penfield with William V. Cone (who introduced twist-drill techniques for biopsy and ventriculoper-itoneal shunting techniques), opened in 1934 after a generous grant by the Rockefeller Foundation (Preul, Stratford, Bertrand, & Feindel, 1993).

The origins of many of Penfield's approaches to epilepsy surgery can be traced to the influences of Otfrid Foerster at the Brain Research Institute in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland; Piotrowska & Winkler, 2007). Many World War I veterans returned home with post-traumatic epilepsy, and Foerster developed cortical stimulation techniques in awake patients to reproduce their aura and provide maximal resection of scarred cortex without involving eloquent cortex (Flanigin, King, & Gallagher, 1985; Sarikcioglu, 2007). Penfield spent 6 months with Foerster in 1928 learning techniques of cortical mapping and epilepsy surgery (Sarikcioglu, 2007), and together with Foerster's published surgery outcomes of these patients only 2 years later (Foerster & Penfield, 1930). Other prominent figures in the neurology/neurosurgery who studied with Foerster include Percival Bailey and Paul Bucy.

The development of the epilepsy program at the MNI could not have occurred without the many contributions of the neurophysiologist Herbert Jasper. Before arriving at the MNI in 1938, Jasper had developed the EEG laboratory and Brown University and had published a paper in *Science* describing how visual stimulation would decrease the alpha rhythm, and the frequency of the alpha waves were constant over repeated evaluations, and how EEG frequency was a low as 2–3 Hz in two patients with brain injury (Feindel, 1999). "It may well be that the electroencephalograms of the sort described in this note may prove significant in psychology and clinical neurology. It is even possible that this technique may provide information in regard to brain action which will be comparable in significance to the information in regard to heart function which is provided by the electrocardiograph" (Jasper & Carmichael, 1935). After Penfield had toured Jasper's laboratory after giving a seminar at Brown University, Penfield commented that Jasper had told him that he could "localize of the focus of an epileptic seizure by the disturbance of brain rhythms outside the skull. I doubted but hoped it might be true" (Penfield & Jasper, 1972). Jasper then obtained EEGs on two of Penfield's patients, and based on Jasper's localization, both patients went to surgery where Penfield confirmed Jasper's seizure focus localization (Feindel, 1999).

Although the contributions of Brenda Milner are well known to clinical neuropsychologists, the systematic use of psychology at the MNI began years earlier. Penfield's desire for psychological input is reflected by his hire of Molly Harrower, who established what is likely the first clinical psychology service at a major hospital. Recruiting psychology into a medical environment was a novel approach at that time and began "a totally new chapter of the kinds of things [that can be done] with a rapport with medicine." "I was really coping with really being the only woman in the hospital, the only woman fellow, the only woman on staff and the only psychologist" (http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?b=UF00006059&v=00001). Harrower was at Montreal from 1938–1942.

Penfield took special precautions due to his concerns about the effects of epilepsy surgery in the language dominant hemisphere (Sarikcioglu, 2007). As early as 1939, Penfield performed stimulation language mapping to identify areas of "eloquent cortex" to help guide surgical resection (Almeida, Martinez, & Feindel, 2005). In this case of a left ATL, surgery was performed using local anesthesia. The awake patient was encouraged to talk with Donald Hebb, "who drew him out on various subjects while the area of the scar was being removed."

Hebb's contributions to our understanding of basic brain function (e.g., Hebbian circuits and cell assemblies) are well known and anticipated many contemporary concepts of neural nets. His work also included important clinical contributions to abnormal brain function, and in particular, his seminal work on the frontal lobes. Prior to the 1930s, the frontal lobes were considered the seat of all that is "noble and good" about humans. Hebb demonstrated that "frontal release" neurological signs (e.g., snout, glabellar), which at that time were considered pathognomonic of focal frontal lobe disease, did not result from large prefrontal lesions, but rather occurred due to the combination of frontal lesions with diffuse pressure effects associated with expanding mass lesions. This difference from the traditional clinical dogma resulted from the MNI's early detection of tumor and more rapid referral for cognitive evaluation compared with other centers. When reporting his early findings at the American Psychological Association, Hebb's results were met with skepticism by more senior psychologists: "I don't think I was regarded as a liar, just an incompetent" (Hebb, 1977).

Hebb was also the first to describe increased Full-Scale IQ following frontal lobe resection. Although not widely known, one of the early patients in Hebb's series on frontal lobe lesions was Penfield's sister. In fact, it was Penfield's sister who was being described as having trouble organizing family meals when describing the real-world effects in goal-directed behavior change following frontal lobe resection.

Milner was a graduate student of Hebb, and he recommended to Penfield that she evaluate his surgical patients pre- and post-operatively. The interested reader should read Milner's "autobiography" for a more thorough presentation of her many contributions to neuropsychology (Milner, 1998). On the basis of her study of patient H.M. and other patents developing post-operative amnesia, Milner demonstrated the important dissociation between episodic and procedural memory, which greatly facilitated the fractionation of "memory" into multiple and largely independent neural systems.

Because of Penfield's pursuit to document cognitive change following elective brain surgery, there are multiple ramifications for neuropsychology that I refer to as "Penfield" effects. On the broadest level, epilepsy was the first clinical disease to include neuropsychology programmatically to initially better characterize and subsequently guide the surgical treatment of

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epilepsy. In this context, epilepsy surgery represents the first systematic application of which is currently referred to as "Health Outcomes Research." "Seizure free" with marked neuropsychological decline was a bad surgical outcome and constituted a surgical failure.

More narrowly, developing neuropsychology as a technique to establish surgical candidacy validated neuropsychological testing as a valuable diagnostic service. Although other approaches to neuropsychological assessment such as the Halstead Reitan Neuropsychological Battery were being used at that time, the HRNB was primarily employed to establish the presence of "organic brain disease." Establishing "organicity" was an important contribution of neuropsychology at that time since diagnostic tools available during that era, namely EEG and pneumoencephalography, were gross measures of brain abnormalities. Pneumoencephalography was introduced in 1919 by Walter Dandy (Dandy, 1919); EEG was discovered a decade later in 1929 by Hans Berger (Berger, 1929). The goals of neuropsychological testing at MNI, however, were explicitly to identify specific neuropsychological deficits reflecting the integrity of focal brain regions so that resective surgery could be performed without significant cognitive morbidity.

The other major contribution of the MNI is its emphasis on stimulation/language mapping, again reflecting careful appreciation of brain function, and attempts to minimize post-operative cognitive morbidity. MNI was unique in the early centers in this respect and reflected to collaborations of neuropsychology, neurology, and neurosurgery at very high levels (Fig. 6).

Wada Testing

Discussion of the contributions of MNI to neuropsychology cannot be made without reference to Juhn Wada, who introduced the technique of selective hemispheric anesthesia to the MNI in 1955 (Fig. 7). Wada testing has been unique in informing our understanding of brain-behavior relationships, particularly in the days prior to functional brain imaging, and has greatly facilitated our understanding of the effects of epilepsy on alterations of cerebral language representation and handedness.

Wada initially developed selective hemispheric barbiturization during post-World War II Japan to limit bilateral seizure effects associated with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) (Wada, 1997). By "anesthetization through a carotid route to prevent seizure bilateralization," Wada reasoned that the cognitive side effects associated with bilateral ECT would be minimized. Before he was able to implement this approach with patients undergoing ECT, however, Wada was presented with a patient with repeated episodes of partial status epilepticus and occasional generalization following a penetrating missile injury. Because of chloral hydrate treatment failure, the standard treatment of status at that time, Wada administered the amobarbital which had been obtained for use with ECT patients, and unilateral amobarbital injection successfully interrupted the status.

This technique as a procedure to establish cerebral language representation in epilepsy surgery candidates was introduced to the MNI in 1955 when Wada was on fellowship. Since epilepsy was known to potentially alter cerebral language dominance, Wada testing became routine when any possibility of atypical language existed and quickly became the gold standard for establishing cerebral language representation.

Wada memory testing began several years later after multiple cases of severe memory decline were observed following unilateral temporal lobectomy (Penfield & Milner, 1958). Memory declines were attributed to significant bilateral disease that went unrecognized during the presurgical evaluation. In these patients, there was insufficient residual function in the contralateral temporal lobe following surgery to sustain new memory formation (Chelune, 1995). By introducing items to be



Fig. 6. Operating theatre at the Montreal Neurological Institute ca. 1958. Assisting Wilder Penfield with the procedure is Herber Jasper (monitoring EEG up upper left portion of picture) and Brenda Milner (back to camera and interacting with patient).



Fig. 7. Juhn Wada (1924-).

remembered during the period of hemispheric anesthesia, Milner reasoned that the effects of surgical resection on memory could be modeled and risk for significant post-surgical decline estimated (Milner, Branch, & Rasmussen, 1962).

The Wada test quickly became an indispensible clinical tool for establishing preoperative language and memory dominance. Wada testing also has provided unique brain-behavior research opportunities to investigate hemispheric specialization of mechanisms contributing to emotion (Lee, Loring, Meader, & Brooks, 1990), neglect (Meador et al., 1988), anosognosia (Durkin, Meador, Nichols, Lee, & Loring, 1994), autonomic function (Zamrini et al., 1990), and apraxia (Heilman, Meador, & Loring, 2000).

More Recent Epilepsy Surgery Centers

A second generation of epilepsy surgery programs emerged in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Notable programs (neuropsychologists) include the University of Washington (Carl Dodrill), Mayo Clinic (Robert Ivnik), Yale University (Robert Novelly), UCLA (Rebecca Rausch), and at the MNI, a passing of the neuropsychology baton from Brenda Milner to Marilyn Jones-Gotman. Important contributions to neuropsychology were made by all programs, and space does not permit a comprehensive review of each program's role in shaping neuropsychology. However, Dodrill's (1983) emphasis on psychosocial aspects of epilepsy in many ways anticipated Quality of Life as an important construct to characterize epilepsy and its treatment (Devinsky et al., 1995). Dodrill (1978) also developed a disease-specific approach to neuropsychological assessment. Rauch demonstrated subfield specialization of the hippocampus to the hard, but not easy, word pairs of the Wechsler Memory Scale (WMS) Paired-Associate Learning task (Rausch & Babb, 1993). [It is unfortunate given the strong relationship between left hippocampal function and paired-associated learning that the initial revision of the original 1945 WMS did not include individual Paired-Associate subtest norms. There were many criticisms of WMS-R as a comprehensive memory assessment protocol (Loring, 1989). Given the substantial normative improvement of the 1987 WMS-R over the 1945 WMS, however, many clinicians used the WMS-R Logical Memory (LM) and Visual Reproduction (VR) subtests alone rather than administering the entire WMS-R battery since individual subtest norms for LM and VR were included in the manual. Unfortunately, subtest norms for Paired Associates (PA) were not available in the scoring manual, and the only PA summary scores were a mean and standard deviation. Thus, clinicians relying on the presence of normative information to guide subtest selection avoided PA as a measure of verbal learning, despite evidence of its superiority to LM as a measure of hippocampal function.] Jones-Gotman's contribution to the understanding of temporal lobe epilepsy was unique in neuropsychology, with interests in temporal lobe contributions to noncognitive constructs of smell and taste (Jones-Gotman et al., 1997; Small, Jones-Gotman, Zatorre, Petrides, & Evans, 1997). Although Novelly (1992) was not an active clinical researcher, his paper in the American *Psychologist* remains "must reading" for anyone interested in the synergy between neuropsychology and epilepsy.

Medical College of Georgia

At the Medical College of Georgia (MCG), our contributions to understanding neuropsychological aspects of epilepsy have centered in two main areas: (a) Wada testing (Loring, Meador, Lee, & King, 1992), and (b) cognitive and behavioral effects of antiepilepsy drugs (AEDs) (Loring, Marino, & Meador, 2007). The surgical arm of the MCG program was lead by Herman Flanigin, who was the junior author with Penfield at the MNI on the landmark 1950 paper on temporal lobectomy (Penfield & Flanigin, 1950).

After arriving at MCG, I quickly realized how epilepsy physicians were in a unique position to appreciate the subtleties and sometime inconsistencies of functional measures. Early in 1986, soon after MRI was being routinely used in epilepsy surgery evaluations, Dr Flanigin (who was both a board-certified neurosurgeon trained by Wilder Penfield and a board-certified neurophysiologist trained by Herbert Jasper) was unable to find any evidence of EEG abnormality to suggest any focal abnormality across the long paper EEG record. After careful review of the MRI films, Dr Flanigin returned to the long EEG printout and quickly identified a small but consistent focal abnormality based upon the location of subtle MRI brain change. Dr Flanigin smiled and stated that this was an "MRI enhanced EEG," informally illustrating the importance of interpreting the EEG (and by extension, neuropsychological results) within the entire clinical context and available laboratory findings.

Wada Testing

Because Wada protocols are not standardized, there is ongoing controversy over its clinical utility given the reported variability of Wada protocols to predict memory outcome (Loring & Meador, 2010) This concern has grown stronger as reliable noninvasive alternatives to Wada testing for establishing language and memory representation (e.g., fMRI) continue to be developed and refined (Loring & Meador, 2009).

At MCG, we demonstrated how method variance in Wada memory protocols produces significantly different Wada memory results. Factors such as stimulus type (pictures vs. real objects) (Loring et al., 1997), timing of stimulus presentation (Loring, Meador, Lee, King, et al., 1994), mixed stimuli (Lee, Park, Westerveld, Hempel, & Loring, 2002), and amobarbital dose (Loring, Meador, & Lee, 1992) all affect Wada memory correlations with seizure onset laterality. Further, different sensitivities to seizure onset laterality, with corresponding differences in diagnostic sensitivity and specificity, result from different criteria used to infer interhemispheric memory asymmetries (Loring, Bowden, Lee, & Meador, 2009).

Even within our own epilepsy center, we reported different "utility" of Wada memory results based upon evolving Wada technique. For example, we observed that successful post-operative memory outcomes could be observed following Wada memory failure. Our Wada protocol at that time (Loring et al., 1990) employed relatively large total doses of amobarbital (up to 250 mg). However, after we demonstrated an adverse dose effect on Wada memory results (Loring, Meador, Lee, et al., 1992) and following the introduction of real objects as our primary memory stimuli (Loring, Meador, Lee, et al., 1992), we observed a case of post-operative amnesia in which strongly asymmetric Wada memory results appeared to predict that neuropsychological outcome (Loring, Hermann, et al., 1994). Across a larger series of patients testing using lower dosing and real-object Wada memory stimuli, memory performance is related to verbal memory decline following ATL (Loring, Meador, Lee, Nichols, et al., 1994).

Cognitive and Behavioral AED Effects

Among the many factors affecting cognition in patients with epilepsy (e.g., age of seizures onset, disease substrate, type of seizure, seizure frequency), AEDs are unique since medication choice is under the control of the physician and patient. Since AEDs decrease membrane excitability, increase post-synaptic inhibition, or alter synchronization of neural networks, it is not surprising that they are often associated with neuropsychological side effects including decreased motor/psychomotor speed and attention (Meador, 2005). After seizure control, the most important aspect of AED treatment is the side effect profile including problems with cognition, energy level, school performance, childbearing, coordination, and sexual function.

Across our MCG studies of older AEDs, we developed a core neuropsychological AED test battery that emphasizes measures of psychomotor speed, attention, and memory (Meador et al., 1991, 1995). Using this protocol, we demonstrated poorer graphomotor performance associated with phenobarbital compared with carbamazepine (Tegretol) or phenytoin (Dilantin) or valproate (Depakote), despite relatively low serum phenobarbital levels (Meador, Loring, Huh, Gallagher, & King, 1990; Meador et al., 1995). Both lamotrigine (Lamictal) and levetiracetam (Keppra) are associated with less cognitive impairment than carbamazepine (Meador, Loring, Ray, & Motamedi, 2006; Meador et al., 2001). We have established greater neuropsychological risk in epilepsy patients with topiramate (Topamax) compared with valproate (Depakote) or lamotrigine

(Lamictal) in adjunctive therapy and in healthy volunteers (Blum et al., 2006; Meador, Loring, Hulihan, Kamin, & Karim, 2003; Meador et al., 2005), and have introduced reliable change indices as a way to operationalize AED-associated cognitive decline (Loring, Meador, Williamson, Wiegand, & Hulihan, 2007). Cognitive AED effects are increasingly appreciated—in one recent pediatric trial of overall AED effectiveness in the treatment of childhood absence epilepsy, ethosuximide was considered superior to valproate since, despite comparable efficacy in treating seizures and normalizing the EEG, ethosuximide was associated with less impairment of attention (Glauser et al., 2010). As is the case with epilepsy surgery outcomes, poor neuropsychological treatment effects with AEDs is a well-recognized potential treatment risk, and measuring this risk as a formal treatment outcome in clinical drug trials is increasingly being employed to establish treatment effectiveness, even in the context of good treatment efficacy.

Bozeman Epilepsy Consortium

In 1990, the NIH issued a consensus statement asserting that neuropsychology not only was essential for preoperative evaluation of epilepsy surgery candidacy, but also was necessary for evaluating surgical outcomes (http://consensus.nih.gov/1990/ 1990SurgeryEpilepsy077html.htm). Partially in response to this initiative, a group of neuropsychologists from major epilepsy surgical centers formed an informal (and unfunded) research collaboration. This group included Bill Barr (Long Island Jewish Hospital), Gordon Chelune (Cleveland Clinic), Bruce Hermann (Baptist Memorial Hospital), Ken Perrine (New York University), Esther Strauss (University of Victoria), Max Trenerry (Mayo Clinic), Mike Westerveld (Yale University), and MCG. Because the initial meetings were held in Bozeman, Montana, this collaboration became known as the Bozeman Epilepsy Consortium.

This small group of neuropsychologists with specialized interests in epilepsy provided the forum for frank exchanges about test selection and utilization that were unencumbered by pathological historical inertia (i.e., "that's the way we've always done it") or pathological training inertia (i.e., that's the way we did it during internship/fellowship). In response to these discussions, some centers modified their assessment protocols; although in some instances, institutional considerations for database continuity overrode the desire for implementing new and potentially better assessment approaches. With the widespread availability of MRI, introduction of the personal computer and subsequent availability of the Internet, and maturation of video/ EEG recording technologies, the zeitgeist was right for multicenter collaboration that could answer specific clinical epilepsy research questions.

Test administration was discussed at each Bozeman meeting for database quality control, and surprisingly, several small but potentially relevant differences in test administration were identified. Also discussed were practical matters about how neuropsychological data were presented, both in formal clinical reports and during the epilepsy surgery conference. A much greater appreciation was obtained, not only for the variability in neuropsychological assessment approaches designed to answer a common clinical question in epilepsy, but also for broader institutional differences in preoperative evaluation including the use of intracranial EEG monitoring, language mapping, and surgical technique. The Bozeman collaboration provided a way to quickly amass a meaningful sample size to investigate the sensitivity of common neuropsychological measures of language and material-specific memory measures as well as important brain–behavior relationships.

Bozeman Summary

Despite the impressive research output from this collaboration (summarized in Table 1), the importance of the Bozeman collaboration extends far beyond the incremental knowledge that was generated. The Bozeman group demonstrated the power of collaborative research initiatives and the power of data pooling across sites. This group also discussed how a variety of programmatic or non-assessment questions could be addressed in a collaborative research setting. Bozeman participants also formed the first members of NPSYCH, the first Internet neuropsychology listserv group. NPSYCH membership was extended to the larger epilepsy neuropsychology community in 1994 in New Orleans, and then to the general neuropsychology community in 1995 in Seattle.

The Bozeman collaboration provided the opportunity for reasoned discussions about a rational approach to assessment and anticipated the NINDS initiative to establish "common data elements" that began at the 2008 meeting of the American Epilepsy Society. Given the long history of cross-disciplinary collaborations in epilepsy management and epilepsy research, epilepsy was the first clinical group selected by NINDS to participate in the CDE project.

One goal of the NINDS CDE project is to permit comparison across studies using the same constructs and the same operational measures of those constructs. Although this will facilitate data pooling across sites, a larger goal of this initiative will hopefully include NIH funding for database creation and maintenance as a research repository for both funded and non-funded neuropsychology epilepsy studies.

Table 1. Peer-reviewed publications produced by the Bozeman Epilepsy Consortium

Reference	Study topic	
Barr and colleagues (1997)	Sensitivity of figural fluency tests to right temporal lobe dysfunction	
Chelune and colleagues (1998)	Relationship of IQ to seizure outcome after temporal lobectomy	
Hermann, Connell, Barr, and Wyler (1995)	Sensitivity of the Warrington Memory Test to lateralized temporal lobe epilepsy	
Hermann, Trenerry, and Colligan (1996)	Contributors to depression in TLE	
Hermann and colleagues (1999)	Relationship of surgical approach in left ATL to post-operative naming outcomes	
Loring and colleagues (1997)	Memory stimulus type and Wada memory outcomes	
Loring and colleagues (1999)	"Crowding" associated with nonspace occupying lesions	
Loring, Hermann, Lee, Drane, and Meador (2000)	Sensitivity of the Memory Assessment Scales to lateralized temporal lobe epilepsy	
Loring and colleagues (2008)	Sensitivity of common naming and verbal memory measures to left TLE	
Perrine, Hermann, and colleagues (1995)	Relationship of quality of life to neuropsychological performance in epilepsy	
Perrine, Westerveld, and colleagues (1995)	Relationship of Wada memory asymmetries predict post-operative seizure outcome	
Strauss and colleagues (1995)	Factors are related to impaired neuropsychological profiles in epilepsy	
Strauss and colleagues (1997)	Differential rates of age of seizure onset between sexes and between hemispheres	
Strauss and colleagues (2000)	Category-specific naming risks associated with left ATL	
Trenerry and colleagues (1996)	MMPI profiles differences between left and right TLE patients and differential changes following ATL	
Westerveld and colleagues (2000)	Cognitive outcomes in pediatric ATL	
Wilde and colleagues (2001)	Sensitivity of WMS-III index discrepancies in patients with TLE	
Wilde and colleagues (2003)	Confirmatory factor analysis of WMS-III in patients with TLE	

Notes: ATL = anterior temporal lobectomy; TLE = temporal lobe epilepsy; MMPI = Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory; WMS = Wechsler Memory Scale.

Evidence-based Neuropsychology

As part of the increasing emphasis on evidence-based medicine, neuropsychology will need to continue to demonstrate its relevance not only to patient diagnosis and disease progression, but also to health outcomes. As previously discussed, in a recent study studying AED effectiveness in children with absence seizures, comparable efficacy of controlling seizures was present in two of the three medications studied (Glauser et al., 2010). However, one drug (ethosuximide) was recommended as being superior based on the absence of neuropsychological impairment of attention compared with the other (valproate). It is not surprising that there is a new emphasis on cognitive and behavioral outcomes by the FDA when evaluating drugs for pediatric indications.

Because funded disease-based research by the NIH will contain the highest level of evidence in clinical studies (e.g., randomized trials, double blind treatments, longitudinal outcomes), CDEs will provide the best scientific basis for neuropsychological test sensitivity and specificity. This may have the unfortunate effect of diminishing innovative test development. For example, the Boston Naming Test (Kaplan, Goodglass, & Weintraub, 1983) is considered the "gold standard" naming test and is include in the epilepsy NP CDEs. However, responsive auditory naming assessment appears to be a more appropriate method for assessing "tip of the tongue" or word finding difficulty. Further, auditory naming sites are distributed more anteriorly in the temporal lobe than visual naming sites, and consequently, appear more related to post-operative naming decline (Hamberger, McClelland, McKhann, Williams, & Goodman, 2007; Hamberger, Seidel, Mckhann, Perrine, & Goodman, 2005). Thus, to the degree that CDEs decrease the degrees of freedom in neuropsychological test selection, advances in the assessment development to develop and implement better measures for the neuropsychological constructs of interest may be impeded.

CDEs, however, will also have the benefit of decreasing the introduction of new tests or test revisions without ample data for important clinical endpoints prior to test publication (Loring & Bauer, 2010). This will more easily allow cross-disease comparisons if common assessment metrics are used, as well as facilitate data pooling across centers for both funded and non-funded projects—an effective way to rapidly acquire large sample sizes to address a variety of clinical research questions and which has been demonstrated to be highly effective based on the success of the Bozeman Epilepsy Consortium. Finally, major medical journals (e.g., *Neurology*) now require levels of evidence to be published with their clinical trials, and it seems likely that neuropsychology journals will soon follow this trend in evidence-based assessment for the quality of published research reports. Common metrics will permit greater comparisons across results, which will ultimately eliminate some of the variability in neuropsychological findings across reports.

Conclusions

The neuropsychology of epilepsy continues to be a robust area of clinical research, with the next generation (or half generation) of epilepsy neuropsychologists making very important contributions (e.g., Sallie Baxendale at Queen Square,

Christoph Helmstaedter at the University Hospital of Bonn, Michael Saling at the University of Melbourne to name just a few). Epilepsy will continue to be a major clinical disease on which the evidence-base for neuropsychological test utility is established. Neuropsychology will continue to play a critical role in establishing epilepsy phenotypes (and perhaps endophenotypes) as part of translational research initiatives to identify both genetic disease risks and possible pharmacogenomic predictors of treatment outcomes. Neuropsychology will also be used with more traditional clinical endpoints to characterize disease severity and functional impairments associated with new and evolving measures of brain structure and function, their interconnectivity, and patterns of complex neuronal networks (e.g., diffusion tensor imaging, functional MRI, Granger causality, local field potentials). As observed by Professor John M. Richardson, Jr, "when it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: Those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened." Neuropsychology will be well represented in the second group.

Author Notes

This paper is based on a presentation delivered to the 2009 *National Academy of Neuropsychology* meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Neuropsychology Award. I am honored to receive this award given the long and intimate relationship enjoyed between epilepsy and neuropsychology and one that continues to be recognized both by our neuropsychology colleagues and by the larger clinical research community. In this context, Brenda Milner received the Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Neuropsychology Award in 1994. Two other epilepsy neuropsychologists, both members of the Bozeman Epilepsy Consortium, have also been recognized by the *National Academy of Neuropsychology* Award in 2006, and Gordon Chelune served as NAN President in 1994. This paper is dedicated to the memory of Esther Strauss, a trusted friend and valuable Bozeman collaborator. I thank Bruce Hermann, Kim Meador, and Juhn Wada for their helpful comments on earlier drafts of this manuscript.

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Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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