



Wernicke's Area[☆]

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Abstract

“Wernicke's area, located in the left temporal lobe,” was identified by Carl Wernicke in 1874 as the locus of damage of an aphasic syndrome characterized by impairment in language comprehension and production. These patients are impaired in understanding words, and their speech is riddled with errors, principally affecting the phonological content of words. This article examines the nature of the deficits in detail, along with related disorders such as word deafness. Evidence pertaining to the localization of Wernicke's area is summarized, as is recent functional imaging data that aim at identifying brain regions concerned with the comprehension and production of language.

Keywords

Auditory association area; Insula; Language repetition; Language understanding; Paragrammatism; Paraphasias; Phoneme discrimination; Pure word-deafness; Temporal lobe; Verbal memory; Wernicke's area

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