ARE THERE ANY SILENT PARTS IN THE HUMAN BRAIN: NO B.O. Popescu

Department of Neurology, University Hospital Bucharest, 'Carol Davila' University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest & Laboratory of Molecular Medicine, 'Victor Babeş' National Institute of Pathology, Bucharest, Romania bogdan ovidiu popescu@yahoo.com

The study of brain evolved during history from simple observation of macroscopic brain structures to experiments in animals and further on to complicated functional imagery in humans. By development of technology, physicians are nowadays able to identify more discrete brain lesions, such as so called 'silent' brain infarcts, demyelination areas or small tumours. The comprehension of 'silent' in these cases is that the patients do not complain and their relatives do not notice anything abnormal. However, when rigurously examined, these patients often show subtle deficits in physical or cognitive functions. Moreover, there are complicated psychological functions which it is really difficult to test by appropriate methods. In this paper I will support the hypothesis that testing of neurological functions is not as sensitive as investigating nervous system for lesions.