

# **TC 49 (Danube symposium)**

## **Frontotemporal dementias**

WCN 2013, Vienna

Sept. 25, 2013

Gerhard Ransmayr, AKh Linz/Austria

gerhard.ransmayr@akh.linz.at

# Conflict of interests

- There is no conflict of interests
- The project is supported by the Jubilee Funds of the Austrian National Bank nr. 13240

# Aims of the TC

- Review of the concept of frontotemporal lobar degenerations (FTLD)
- Clinical criteria
- Neuroimaging
- Pathogenetic subtypes

# Clinical spectrum of frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD)

- Frontotemporal dementia behavioral variant (bvFTD) including Pick's disease and FTDPark-17
- Corticobasal degeneration (CBD)
- Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP)

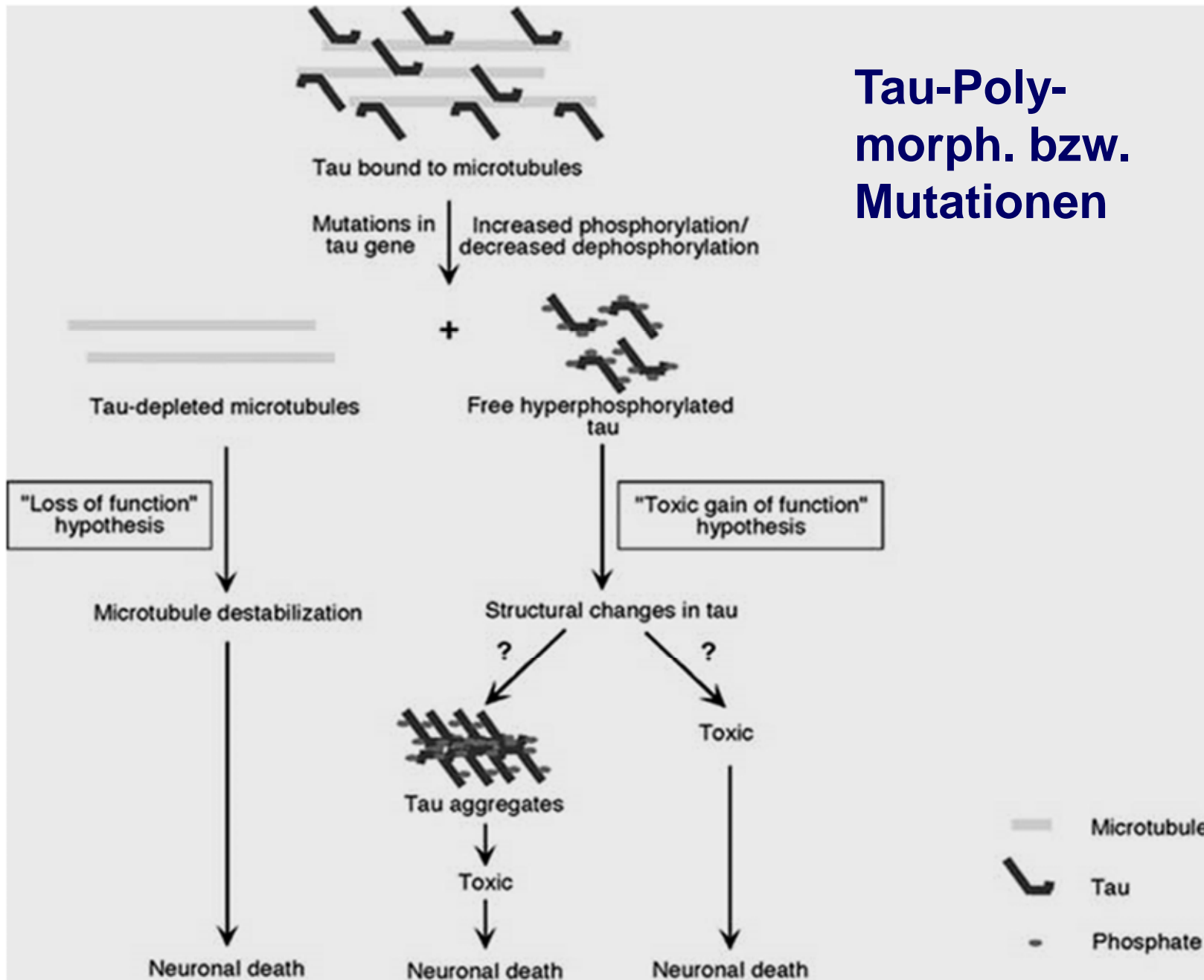
## Primary Progressive Aphasias

- Semantic dementia (SD)
- Primary progressive non-fluent/agrammatic aphasia (PPnf/aA)

# Common features of FTLD

- **Neuropathological similarities/diversities**
  - FT lobar degeneration
  - Histology details:
    - **FTLD-Tau**: Pick's disease, CBD, PSP, FTDP-17, sporadic multi-system taupathy, argyrophilic grain disease
    - FTLD-transactive response **TAR DNA**
      - **binding protein TDP43**
    - FTLD-fused in sarcoma (FUS)
    - FTLD-ubiquitin or P62 (UPS)
    - FTLD-intermed. filament pos (IF)
    - Basophilic inclusion body disease
    - FTLD-ni NOS

# Tau-Poly- morph. bzw. Mutationen



1954  
1955  
1956  
1957  
1958  
1959  
1960  
1961  
1962  
1963  
1964  
1965  
1966  
1967  
1968  
1969  
1970  
1971  
1972  
1973  
1974  
1975  
1976  
1977  
1978  
1979  
1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984  
1985  
1986  
1987  
1988  
1989  
1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
1998  
1999  
2000  
2001  
2002  
2003  
2004  
2005  
2006  
2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024  
2025

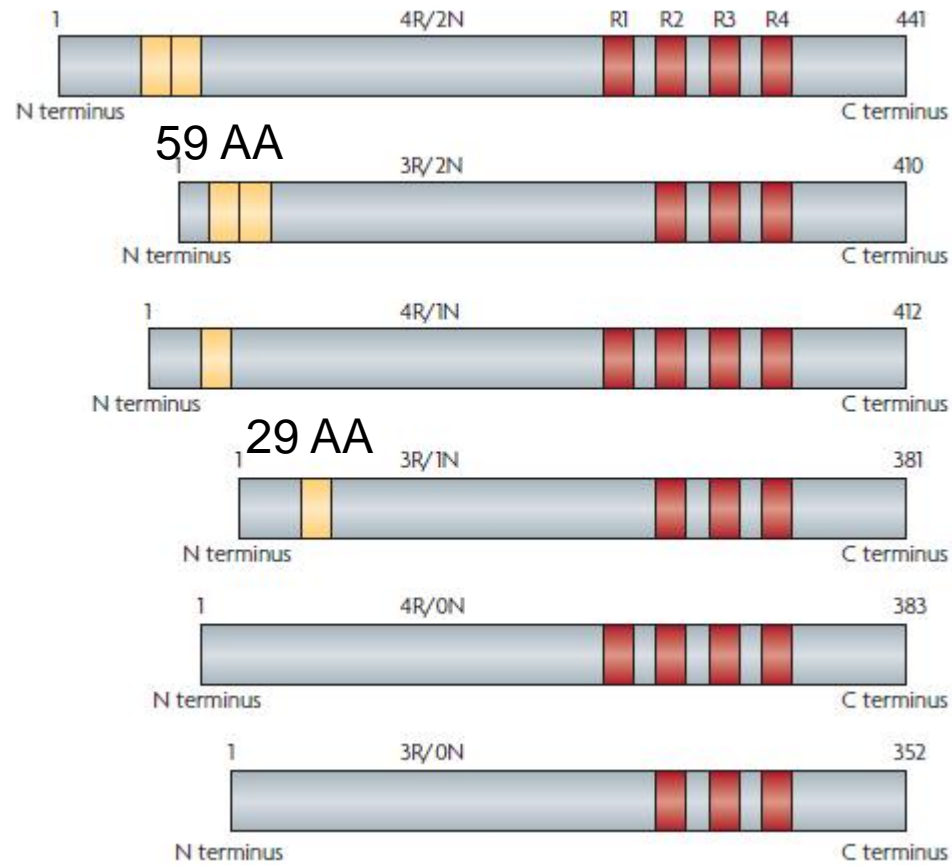
# Tau (Chromosome 17q)

Projection domain

Tubulin binding domain

6 Tau isoforms

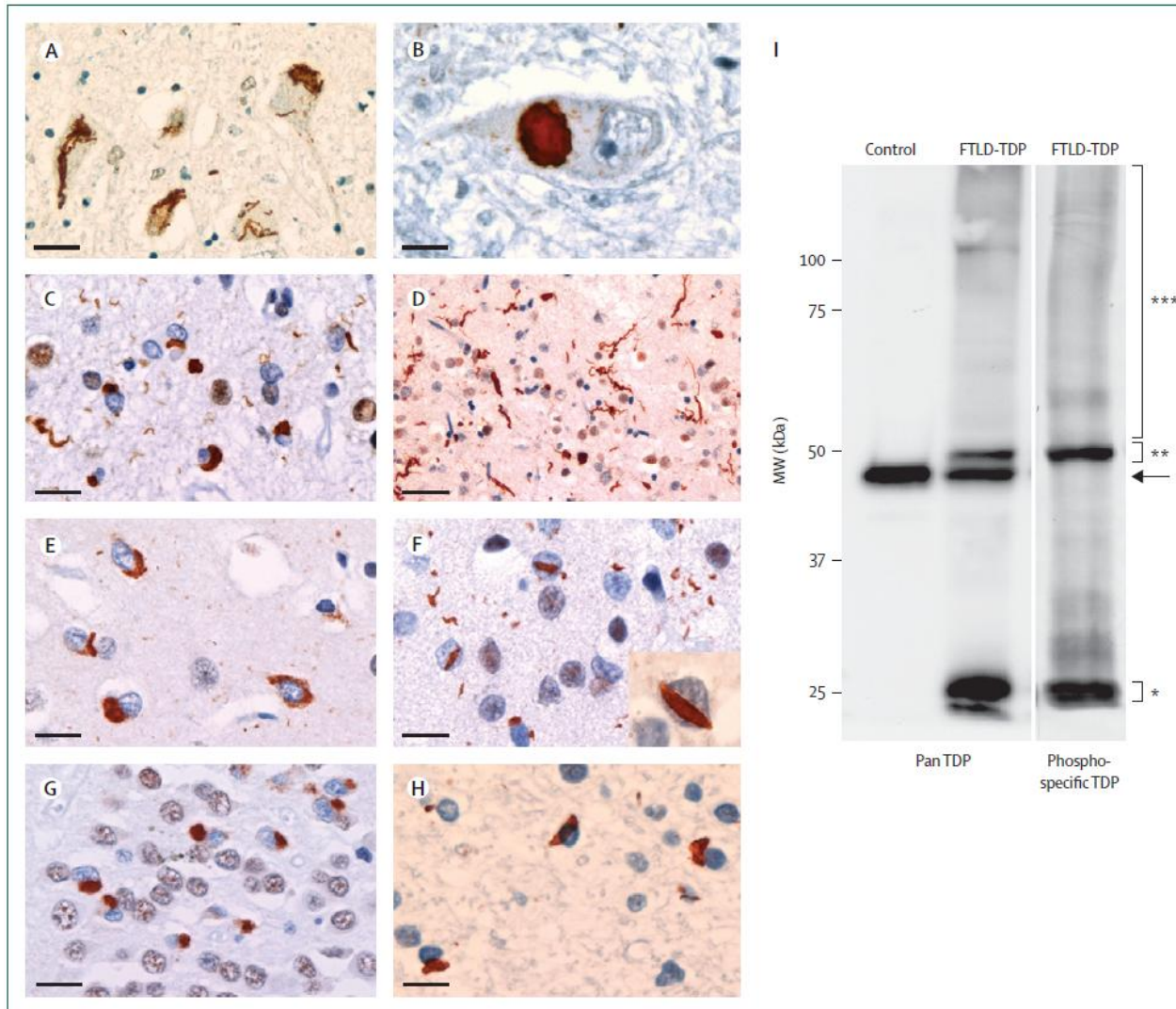
3- and 4 repeat tau



## TDP-43-pos. Inclusions

ALS (left)

FTD (right column)



Mackenzie et al.  
2010



# Clinical diagnostic criteria of bvFTD

(Rascovsky K et al-FTDC criteria Brain 2011)

- Progressive deterioration of behaviour/cognition (history, observation)
- **Possible bvFTD:** ≥3 of the following 6 symptoms:
  - **Disinhibition**
  - Early **apathy** and inertia
  - Early **loss of sympathy or empathy**
  - Early perseverative, stereotyped or compulsive/ritualistic behaviour
  - Hyperorality and dietary changes
  - Impaired in executive tasks, but episodic memory and visuospatial function relatively spared

# Clinical diagnostic criteria of bvFTD

(Rascovsky K et al-FTDC criteria Brain 2011)

- **Probable bvFTD**

Criteria of possible bvFTD fulfilled

Significant functional decline in

Caregiver report,

Clinical Dementia Rating or

Functional Activities Questionnaire

Frontal a/o temporal atrophy in **MRI or CT**

or:

Frontal a/o temporal hypometabolism or hypoperfusion on

**PET or SPECT**

## MRI in bvFTD



# Differences of bvFTD to Alzheimer's disease (AD)

- Earlier age at disease onset (comparable age at onset in around 20%)
- Behavioral impairment prevails over cognitive decline
- Underdiagnosed disease
- Frontal a/o temporal lobar atrophy vs. temporo-parietal atrophy in AD
  
- Caregiver burden bvFTD >> AD
- Prognosis bvFTD worse than in AD

# Diagnostic criteria of primary progressive aphasias (Gorno-Tempini Neurology 2011)

## Semantic variant PPA

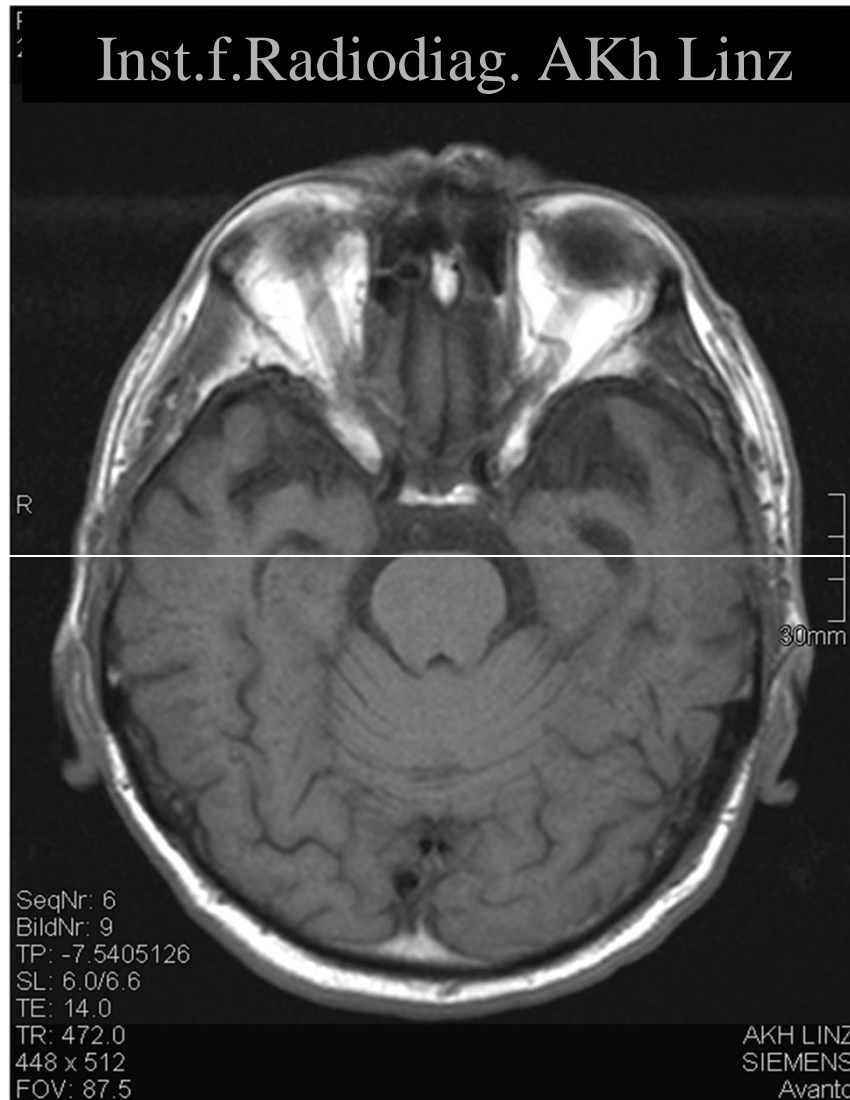
- **Clinical diagnosis**
  - **Both core features must be present**
    - Impaired confrontation naming
    - Impaired single-word comprehension
  - **?3 of the following 4 features must be present**
    - Impaired object knowledge (low-familiarity, low-frequency objects)
    - Surface dyslexia or dysgraphia
    - Spared repetition
    - Spared speech production (grammar and motor speech)

# **Diagnostic criteria of primary progressive aphasia** (Gorno-Tempini Neurology 2011)

## **Semantic variant PPA** cont'd

- **Imaging supported diagnosis:**  
clinical diagnosis+
- one of the following must be present
- predominant anterior temporal atrophy on MRI
- or hypoperfusion/hypometabolism on SPECT/PET

# MRI in semantic dementia



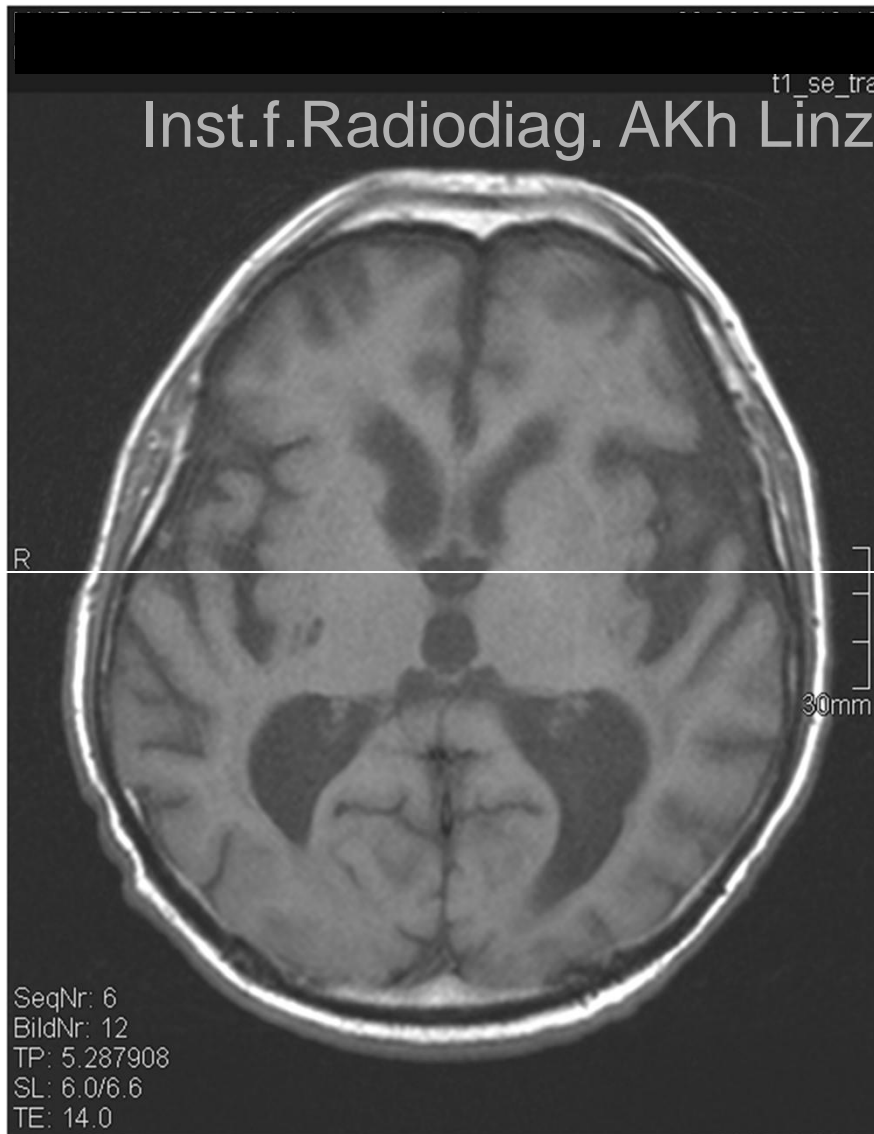
**Left > right anterior  
and lateral temporal  
atrophy**

# Diagnostic criteria of primary progressive aphasias (Gorno-Tempini Neurology 2011) Non fluent/agrammatic variant PA

- **Clinical diagnosis**
  - **One of the following core features**
    - Agrammatism in language production
    - Effortful, halting speech + inconsistent speech sound errors and distortions (apraxia of speech)
    - **?2 of the 3 following 3 features**
      - Impaired comprehension of syntactically complex sentences
      - Spared single-word comprehension
      - Spared object knowledge
- **Imaging supported diagnosis:** clinical diagnosis +
  - One of the following: predominant left posterior fronto-insular atrophy (MRI) or hypoperfusion/hypometabolism (SPECT, MRI)



# MRI primary progress., non-fluent/agrammatic Aphasia



**Atrophy left operculum frontale (BA 44,45)**

# Clinical criteria of progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) (Richardson-type)

NINDS-SPSP 1996 Litvan et al. 1996

Onset after 45, gradually progressive disorder, mostly sporadic

## Possible

Vertical supranuclear palsy or slowing of vertical saccades and  
Marked postural instability with falls within the 1st year

## Probable

Vertical supranuclear palsy and  
Marked postural instability with falls within the 1st year

## Definitive PSP

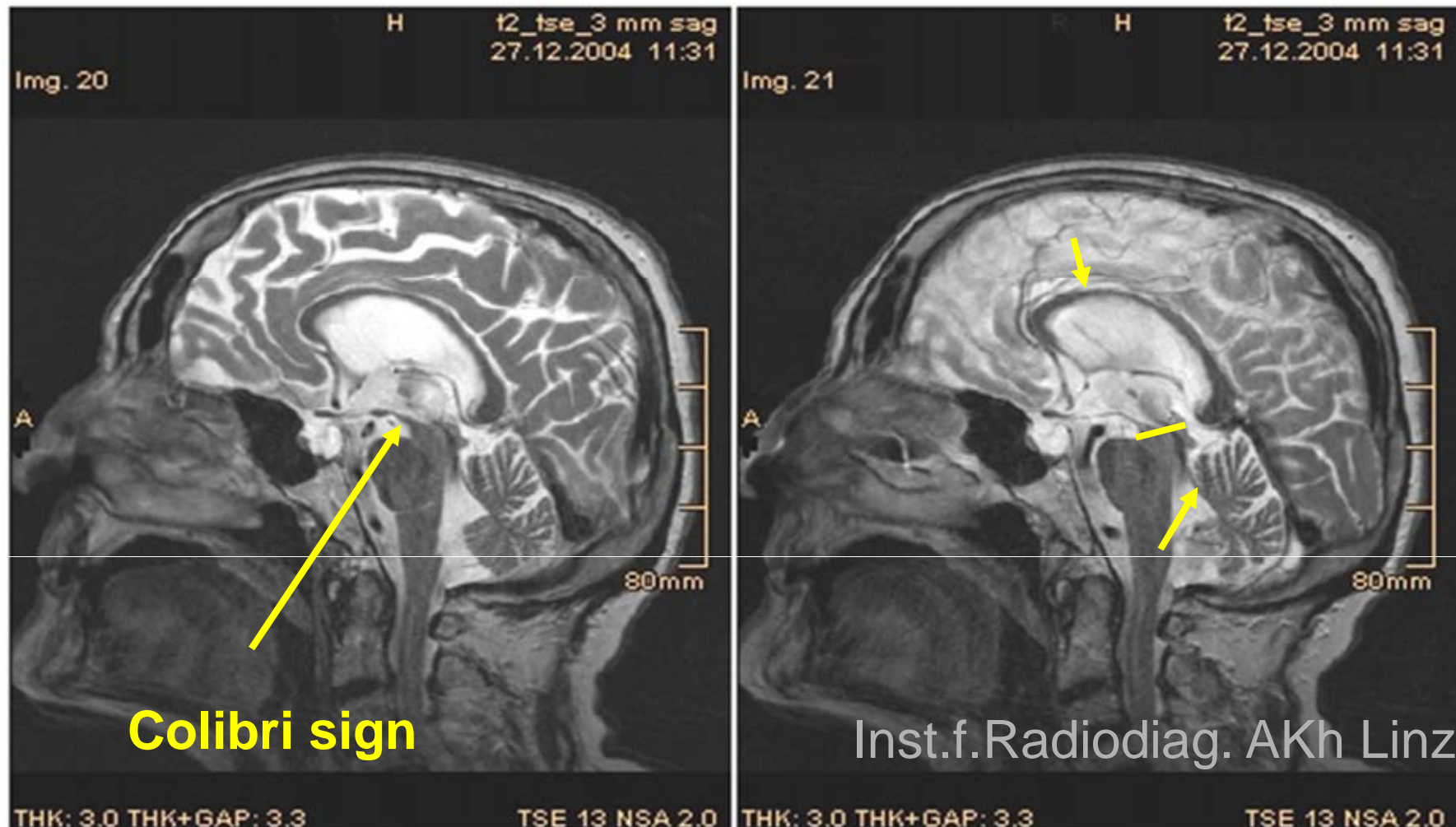
Clinical possible or probable PSP +  
neuropatholog. confirmation

**Applause sign**  
(?ico, FTD, PD)

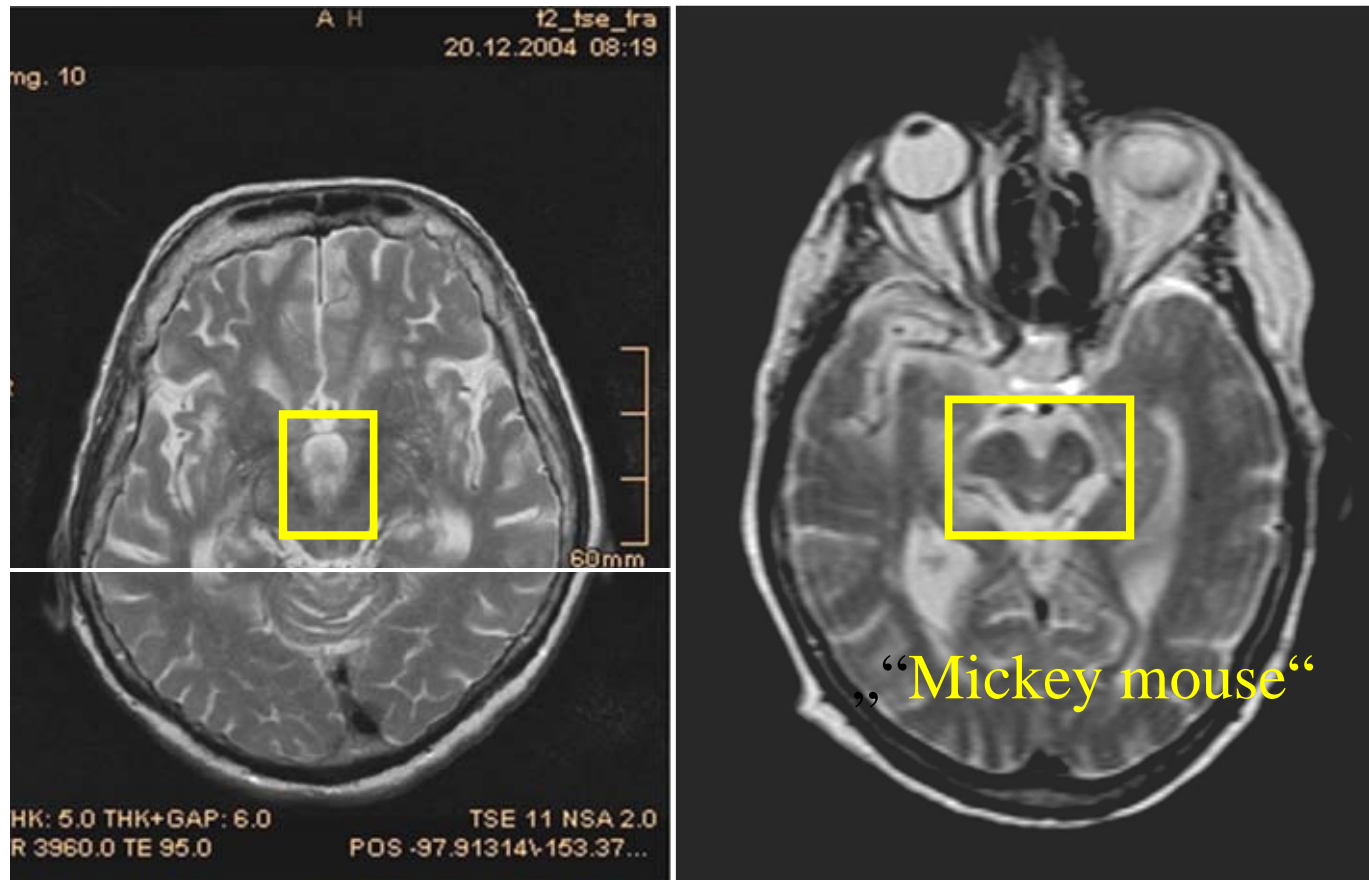
Dubois Neurology  
2005;64:2123

# MRI in PSP-Richardson

Atrophies frontal lobe, callosal body, midbrain, sup. cerebell peduncle



# MRI in PSP-Richardson

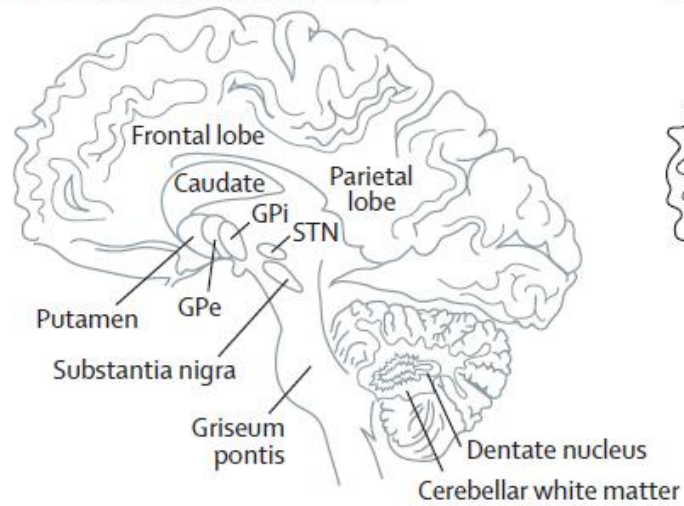


**Wide 3rd ventricle and midbrain axial diameter reduced**

# **The clinical syndrome of progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP)**

- PSP-Richardson Type (classical PSP)
- PSP-Parkinsonism
- Pure akinesia with gait freezing
- PSP-corticobasal syndrome
- PSP-progressive non-fluent aphasia

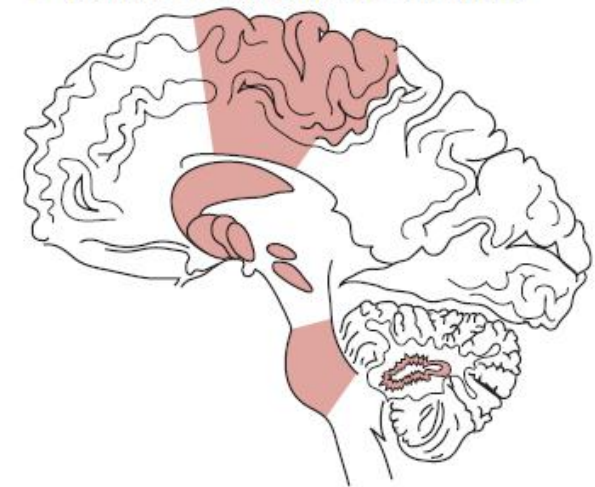
**A** Key to anatomical structures



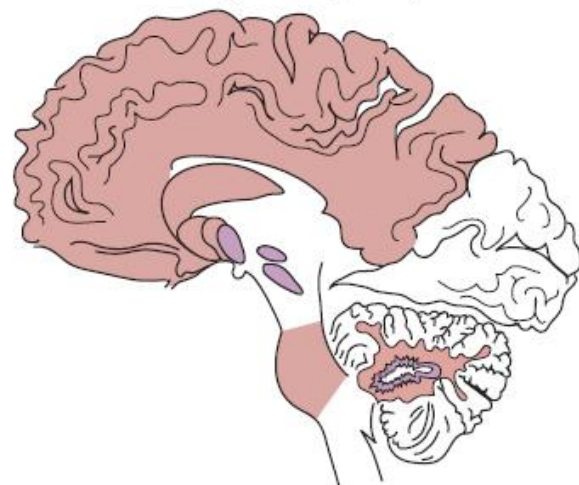
**B** PSP-P or PAGF



**C** Richardson's syndrome, PSP-P, or PAGF



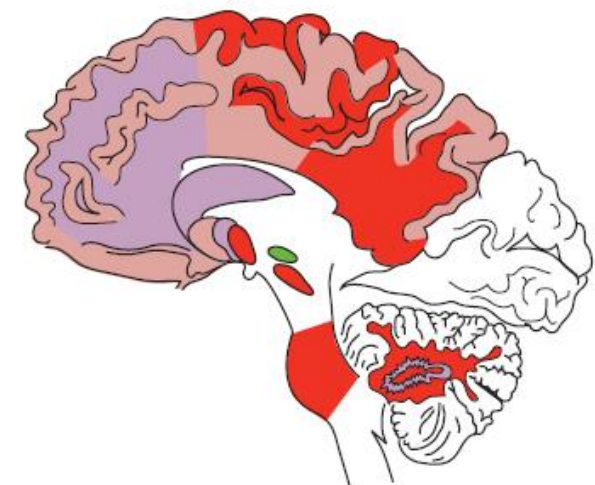
**D** Richardson's syndrome, PSP-P, or PAGF



**E** Richardson's syndrome



**F** Richardson's syndrome



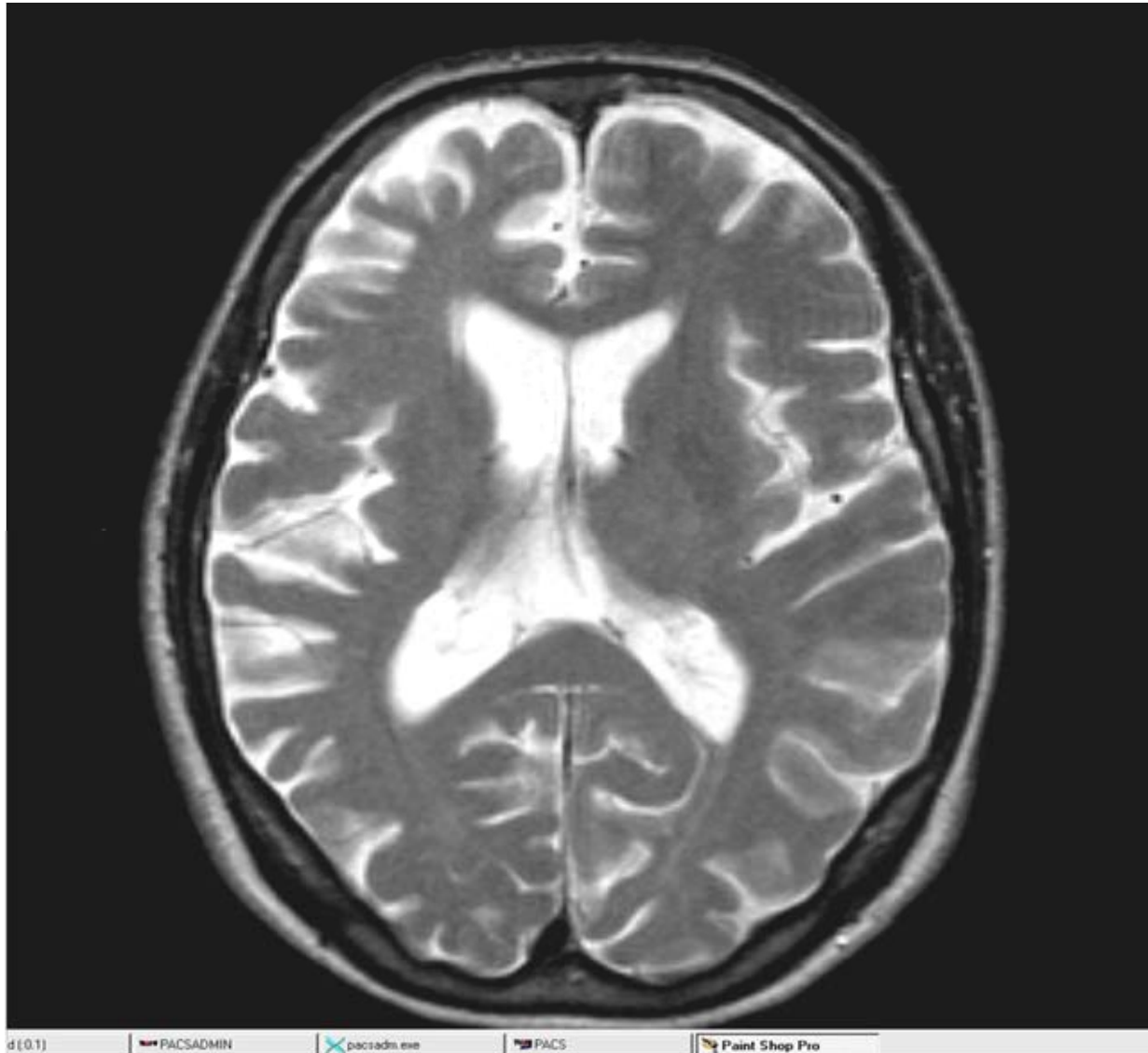
**Differences in extent of neuropathological involvement in relation to clinical subtype**

# Clinical criteria of CBD

Armstrong et al 2013

- A) Probable CBD:** 2 of limb rigidity or akinesia, dystonia, myoclonus; 2 of orobuccal or limb apraxia, cortical sensory deficit, alien limb
- B) Possible CBD:** 1 of the 1st and 1 of the 2nd 3 of A)
- C) Frontal behavioral-spatial syndrome:**  
2 of executive dysfunction, behavioral or personality changes, visuospat. deficits
- D) Nonfluent/agrammatic PPA**
- E) PSP syndrome**

# MRI bei CBD



Inst. f. Radio  
Diagnostik  
AKh Linz



## Literature

Armstrong et al Neurology 2013; 80:496

Gorno-Tempini et al. Neurology 2011;76:1006

Litvan et al. Neurology 1996;47:1

Mackenzie et al. Lancet Neurology 2010;9:995

Raskovsky et al. Brain 2011;134:2456