

## Correction

It is regretted that the paper "Testing for Nominal Aphasia" by Pat McKenna and Elizabeth K Warrington (*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1980; 43:781-8) was published without fig 3. This appears below together with the appendix to which it refers.

### APPENDIX 1

#### *A single case study of a category-specific naming deficit for names of people*

##### *Case report*

GBL (Hospital No. A81818), a 55 year old secondary school teacher was admitted to the National Hospital in May 1975 for investigation of intermittent visual disturbances and poor memory. On examination she was found to have a right upper quadrantic field defect. There were no other neurological signs and in particular her language functions appeared normal. Gamma scan was normal but computed tomography showed a small infarct in the region of the posterior temporal branch of the middle cerebral artery of the left hemisphere (fig 3).



**Psychological findings** GBL was tested on the WAIS and obtained a verbal IQ of 130 and a performance IQ of 116. On a recognition memory test (2 choice) for written words she scored 44/50 which is within the average range (scaled score 10)\* and on a comparable memory test for faces she scored

\*Normalised scores Mean 10, SD 3, Warrington, unpublished.

48/50 which is within the superior range (scaled score 15)\*. Her reading and spelling were entirely normal. On routine testing verbal comprehension, object naming and verbal fluency appeared entirely normal. On the Oldfield naming test she responded quickly and scored 26/26 correct. In contrast on a test of naming well-known personalities her performance was quite impaired: she named only three out of 20 photographs (scaled score 3)\* in spite of having no difficulty in identifying all but two of them by description. (For example, when shown a photograph of Mr Heath, she responded "Conservative, was Prime Minister, organist, comes from the South Coast".) This apparently selective and circumscribed difficulty in identifying people by name was investigated further.

GBL was asked to name the author of 20 well-known books all of which she had read, for example "Who wrote *Pride and Prejudice*?"; she scored 7/20. Similarly, she was asked to name from their description 20 political and national leaders. She claimed knowledge of all these personalities but she was only able to name nine of them correctly. She did not appear to have comparable difficulty in naming places (towns) on a map. She succeeded in identifying 16 of 20 European towns and 12 of 12 English towns.

Her ability to generate proper names from specific categories appeared to parallel her naming difficulties. She was able to produce 22 town names in 60 seconds but only two political or national leaders and only three English prime ministers in the same time limit. She did rather better with authors, producing nine in the 60 seconds. However, when names of specific people were not required, her performance was very much better; she generated 19 girls names and 14 surnames in separate 60 second periods.

We argue from these results that GBL has a nominal deficit affecting one particular class of proper nouns, (names of people) whilst another class of proper nouns, (names of towns), was spared. Whether naming was from a visual representation or from a verbal description did not appear to affect the severity of the deficit. In conclusion we suggest that GBL provides a further example of a category-specific naming deficit.