selves may be sufficient to give rise to obsessive-compulsive behaviour. The behavioural symptoms appeared in our patient after an interval of 10 weeks (compulsions, apathy) after the putaminal stroke and progressed over subsequent months. Likewise, patients have been described who presented obsessive-compulsive behaviour or "psychic akinesia" (apathy, lack of motivation) after a period varying from days to years after basal ganglia lesions, often with a progressive worsening over time in the initial phase. The behavioural changes in our patient occurred about 23 years after the onset of Parkinson's disease. Interestingly, although Parkinson's disease is one of the most common neurological disorders affecting the basal ganglia, reports concerning the occurrence of obsessive-compulsive behaviour in Parkinson's disease are surprisingly scanty. 

Neuropsychological examination disclosed in this patient a widespread cognitive impairment, with a severely reduced capacity to control attentional resources. In our patient, compulsive verbal iterations could consist of the false recognition of the task (or of the context), the verification of the task, and, concurrently with the task of interest (primary task), performance on one or both tasks will deteriorate if the processing demands of the two tasks exceed the available attentional resources. In this patient, the incessant verbal iterations might act as a sort of articulatory suppression "secondary" task that, during various "primary" cognitive tasks, could interfere with the operation of limited capacity processing system, such as the supervisory attentional system or the central executive component of the working memory model. The putamen receives projections from the supplementary motor area, and, in turn, projects back to this area through the internal segment of the globus pallidus and the nucleus ventralis lateralis of the thalamus.

Because the left supplementary motor area seems to be involved in motor planning, speech, the association in our patient between obsessive-compulsive behaviour mainly characterised by verbal iterations and a dysfunction in the basal ganglia-frontal loop system in the dominant hemisphere for language is of interest.

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