

E-Pearl of the Week

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Language localization in bilinguals

Monolingual and late bilingual patients have a reliable left hemispheric dominance across language tasks regardless of proficiency, whereas early bilingual patients demonstrate a tendency for bihemispheric contributions. The differential localization model of bilingual speech indicates that the two languages occupy distinct but overlapping loci or functional circuits within the dominant perisylvian region. Stimulation of the dominant perisylvian region in bilingual patients reveals different but overlapping areas for each language. Sequential recovery of two languages over different time courses may also be observed after Wada testing.

For more details about language localization in multilinguals, see the [following article](#) from the Resident and Fellow section.

Reference

Aladdin Y, Snyder TJ, Ahmed SN. Pearls & Oysters: Selective postictal aphasia: Cerebral language organization in bilingual patients. *Neurology* 2008;71:e14-e17.