

E-Pearl of the Week

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Capgras syndrome

Capgras syndrome was named after Joseph Capgras, who first reported a case, co-authored with Reboul-Lachaux, in 1923. It is characterized by the delusion that a close family member has been replaced by an unfamiliar imposter. This delusional disorder belongs to a constellation of disorders called Delusional Misidentity Syndromes (DMS), or reduplicative paramnesias. This condition can be seen in schizophrenia, mood disorders, Alzheimer disease, and traumatic brain injury. Capgras syndrome is thought to be caused by a disconnection of pathways between face recognition areas in the inferior temporal lobe and the amygdala, which regulates the emotional response to faces.

1. Bradley WG, Daroff RB, Fenichel GM, Jankovic J. *Neurology in Clinical Practice: Fourth Edition*. Butterworth Heinemann: Philadelphia; 2004: 31.
2. Capgras JM, Reboul-Lachaux J. L'illusion des "sosies" dans un délire systématisé chronique. *Bulletin de la Société clinique de médecine mentale* 1923;11:6-16.
3. Kandel ER, Schwartz JH, Jessell TM. *Principles of Neural Science: Fourth Edition*. McGraw Hill;2000:994.

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