Witzelsucht

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Definition

Witzelsucht (vit'sel-zoocht) is a term used to describe a patient's tendency to tell inappropriate jokes and stories at incongruous moments. It is derived from the German words for pun or joke (*witzel*) and addiction (*sucht*). The term is sometimes used more broadly to describe silly, facetious, or euphoric affect, but this is more

accurately termed “moria.” The patient is typically unconcerned with the inappropriateness and incongruity of the behavior. It is most commonly seen in patients with frontal lobe lesions, particularly right frontal, and in frontotemporal dementia (FTD).

References and Readings

- Mendez, M. F. (2005). Moria and Witzelsucht from frontotemporal dementia. *The Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 17(4), 29–430.
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