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Color Anomia

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Definition

Anomia is the inability to name colors in the absence of a more global anomia associated with an aphasic disorder.

Current Knowledge

To be classified as a color anomia, the disorder should occur in the absence of problems with color perception or recognition (i.e., the patient should be able to match or sort colors). Two subtypes of the disorder have been identified. In one, the problem is limited to an inability to name colors that are visually presented or to point to colors named by the examiner. This type of color anomia is usually associated with the syndrome of alexia without agraphia and results from lesions involving the primary visual cortex of the dominant hemisphere (resulting in a right homonymous hemianopsia) and the splenium of the corpus callosum. Visual information is thus

restricted to the left visual field (right hemisphere) and the color information cannot cross the involved splenium of the corpus callosum to reach the left (verbal) hemisphere. In the second subtype, *specific color anomia*, the patient has difficulty with purely verbal color naming tasks, in addition to difficulty in naming visually presented colors. Thus, there would be a naming deficiency if the patient were asked to name the colors associated with the inside and outside of a watermelon. As in the first case, color matching or sorting should be intact. In specific color anomia, other aphasic (naming) deficits may be present, but color names are most affected.

Cross-References

- [Alexia Without Agraphia](#)
- [Color Agnosia](#)

References and Readings

- Bauer, R. M., & Demery, J. A. (2003). Agnosia. In K. Heilman & E. Valenstein (Eds.), *Clinical neuropsychology* (4th ed., pp. 236–295). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Tranel, D. (2003). Disorders of color processing. In T. E. Feinberg & M. J. Farah (Eds.), *Behavioral neurology & neuropsychology* (pp. 243–256). New York: McGraw-Hill.