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Finger Agnosia

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Definition

Inability to distinguish or identify individual fingers of the hand. It is operationally defined by asking the patient to either name individual fingers or to point to fingers named by the examiner.

Current Knowledge

If *finger agnosia* is truly present, the deficit is expressed bilaterally and includes an inability to name or identify fingers belonging to the examiner. Finger agnosia represents a special (and most common) case of autotopagnosia, an inability to name body parts, or more generally, a disturbance of body schema. Especially vulnerable are the three middle fingers, the thumb and little fingers tending to be more accurately identified. The disorder must be distinguished from more basic disturbances such as unilateral neglect, anomia, a unimodal perceptual deficit,

or generalized dementia. If associated with difficulties in right-left discrimination, calculations, and writing (Gerstmann's syndrome), there is a high probability of a lesion involving the angular gyrus of the left or dominant hemisphere. There is some evidence that finger agnosia is associated with degree of certain cognitive deficits in individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Cross-References

- [Autotopagnosia](#)
- [Body Schema](#)
- [Gerstmann's Syndrome](#)

References and Reading

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