Cognitive, Behavioral, and Functional Aspects of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

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- Cognitive impairment in PSP is common, with up to half of patients exhibiting some level of early cognitive decline.
- Executive dysfunction is particularly prevalent.
- Behavioral features are also a salient aspect of PSP.
- Behavioral features are similar to dementias of the frontal lobe and associated with atrophy to frontal brain areas.
- Negative behavioral features (e.g., apathy, aspontaneity, indifference) are more common than positive behavioral features (e.g., irritability, social inappropriateness, impulsivity), with apathy being particularly prominent.
- The cognitive features of PSP contribute to significant functional deficits (e.g., medical and financial decision making).
- Functional deficits can be "hidden" by motor symptoms and caregivers are poor informants about level of functional decline.