

July - August, 2010
Volume 2, Issue 4



“Ear Say”



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Important Dates:

- ▷ July 4
- July 11
- ◁ July 18
- July 25
- ▷ Aug 3
- Aug 10
- ◁ Aug 16
- Aug 24

Canada Day
Thursday, July 1

Independence Day
Sunday, July 4

FIFA World Cup Finals
Sunday, July 11

Ice Cream Sandwich Day
Monday, August 2

**International Day of the
World's Indigenous People**
Friday, August 9

First day of Ramadan
Sunday, August 11

Upcoming Seminars:

Advanced Assessment
Using Frequencies
November 6-7, 2010

Seminar II, Toronto
Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 2010

NEW! Webinar Series:

Level 1 Case Forum
November 25, 2010

Advanced Case Forum
December 9, 2010

Register Now!

New Webinar Series!

Dr. Muriel Agnes

Having developed an online introductory seminar, we are now expanding to offer a web-based learning opportunity to our ongoing students! VPI introduces our new Webinar series!!

We have received many requests for opportunities to discuss clinical casework in Auricular Medicine over the past years, and months. We tried a “blog”, but for a number of reasons, it is not highly effective. So we have made some changes. You will notice that now on our website *anyone* can access our newsletter Ear Say, including archived copies, as well as Resources for use by practitioners. **No need for a password!!** And it is public, meaning anyone can download the materials. Practitioners can now learn more about us, and our training program, which may bring more students into our courses.

Point of the Month!

Broca's Motor Speech area (Treat on dominant Side)

Pathophysiology: If active, a point will be found on the back of the ear (motor) in the area of the precentral gyrus (Strittmatter, p.116). Any injury to this part of the brain indicates searching for active points in this region. “Broca's aphasia” is brain damage resulting in a loss of the ability to speak. They know what they want to say, but cannot get it out; different from Wernicke's aphasia which results in a loss of ability for comprehension of words.

Expected Effect: Even when damaged, the severe impairment that would have been predicted has been found to not transpire. Research has proven “compensatory mechanisms” develop to preserve speech function; the result of brain plasticity that can shift functions beyond the damaged tissue. Treating this area after stroke or tumor infiltration can be important for assisting this neural ability to transfer the speech function to other brain areas. The brain maps the functions to other parts of the brain, which are then projected onto the ear.

See: Plaza, M., Gatignol P., Leroy, M., Duffau H. (2009). Speaking without Broca's area after tumor resection. Neurocase 9:1-17. [PMID 19274574](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19274574/)

The Webinars offer an opportunity to build upon the knowledge gained in the Auricular Medicine Training Program, and to share collective clinical experience with colleagues. It is an excellent way to refresh and develop your clinical skills. Each Webinar is a 2-hour session to sit in your own living room and discuss cases with other VPI trained health professionals, as well as with Dr. Agnes. You will learn new approaches that will develop your healing abilities as an acupuncturist, and be reminded of ways to apply this wonderful medicine to clinical cases.

Registrants will receive a link to join their scheduled live 2-hour session. All you need is access to a computer and high speed Internet. Registrants will also be invited to send a clinical question to Dr. Agnes prior to the online meeting for in-session discussion. Each webinar will be limited to 20 participants, so Register Today!

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of "Ear Say"**

Email us at:

info@vitalprinciple.ca

The Elastic Brain

by Lisa Weleschuk TCMD, R,ac

A young woman came into the clinic having suffered a stroke. The cause was unknown. The stroke occurred in the left frontal lobe, in the Broca's area of motor speech. Her comprehension remained perfect, but finding and forming words was labored. During our first conversation, we rated her speech to be at 20-30% function.

We searched for the active points on the left frontal lobe and Broca area on the back of the ear with the frequency hammer set for the frequency of the central nervous system. (That excluded any sinus difficulty confusing our readings). Treatment was with gold needles. Over a period of four months, we saw her speech come back to 85%. She was pleased.

Then she had a heart attack. Previously, the doctors said her heart was not the cause of the initial stroke, but after the infarction and rigorous testing, they found her heart would go into atrial fibrillation when under duress. One minute in atrial fibrillation can form a blood clot.

During that time period in the hospital, an MRI of the brain was done. The doctors "showed her the stroke", the dead tissue in the Broca's area. She

said it was a different color than the rest of the brain. The doctors told her it was permanently damaged, and would never come back.

After released from the hospital with a pacemaker/defibrillator, she came for acupuncture. Her speech had gone down to 60% with the trauma of it all. After her update with the MRI and the dead tissue in the Broca's area, I questioned our treatment. What was the point of treating permanently damaged brain tissue? Were we wasting our time? If the tissue was dead, why were we finding so many active/tender points?

Then I contacted Dr. Agnes for advice. She said something very interesting, that the brain has plasticity and is a "mapper." Other parts of the brain were in the process of taking over the motor speech function of the Broca's area. (It makes sense when we remember that we only use 5-7% of our brain capacity). The "new" area of motor speech was still projecting its function onto the Broca's area of the ear, and asking for help with the active points. As long as we find active points, the brain is asking for help, and we can treat.

I explained this to the young woman, and she concurred that was exactly what the doctors had told her when they showed her the dead tissue. That other parts of the brain were taking over that function, learning to speak for the first time.

Her speech is back up to 90%, and she will be going back to work soon. What a journey for her, and a learning opportunity for us all.

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Next Issue: September 10, 2010

**Deadline for Submissions:
August 20**

Email your story to:
info@vitalprinciple.ca



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