

STROKE SERIES
VOLUME 3

ACCURATE NEUROLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT



How accurate is your neurological assessment?
Is your patient awake and alert and can talk like
a parrot or lethargic and barely responds?

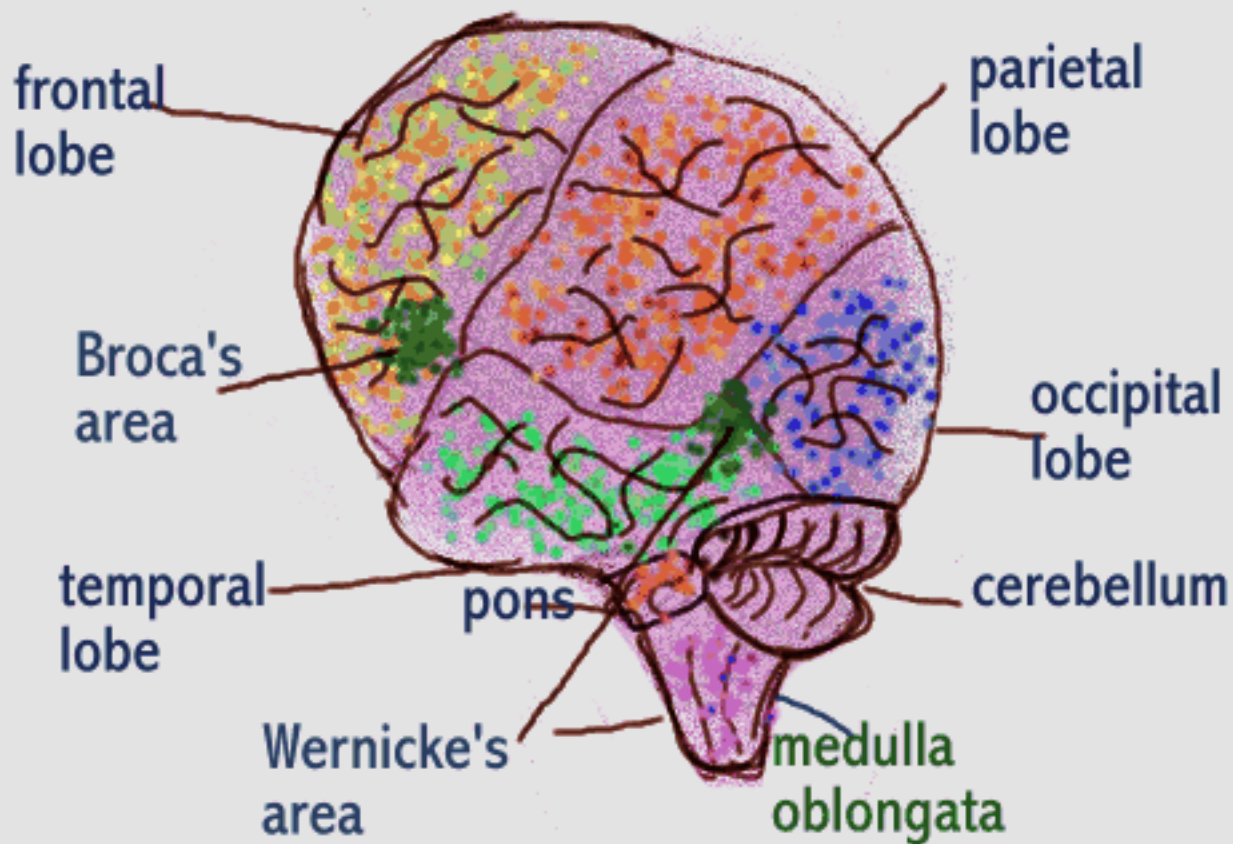


**RED
ALERT!**

The subject matter is intended to share over 3 decades of **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE** with new nurses and those who need experience in a particular area. It is by no means intended as a substitute for your Institution's Policies and Procedures. Follow your doctor's orders .

This is a step by step approach which is full of humor and meant to make learning enjoyable.

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN



Each brain has 2 cerebral hemispheres (right and left). In most people the left hemisphere is the dominant one.



Nerve pathways that control motor function in each cerebral hemisphere cross to the opposite side. Injury to the left side of the brain will result in motor weakness on the right and vice versa.



frontal lobe -
responsible
for judgement,
thought processes
and motor activity.



Sara suffered a stroke after
surgical intervention for a
frontal lobe tumor. She is now
having trouble with her gait.

Sara often has trouble making
good judgement.

Tom had a stroke involving the parietal lobe. He now has trouble with math calculation and distinguishing right from left.

parietal lobe



Responsible for higher learning, math calculation, distinguishing right from left.

I am not sure if this is my left or right arm.



Tom is also having trouble with math calculation. He thinks $3+2+4=11$.

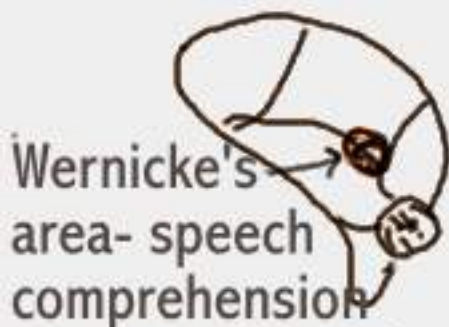
Steve had a stroke which involved his temporal lobe. He is having trouble hearing and difficulty with his memory.



Temporal lobe - responsible for hearing and memory.



I am having trouble remembering why I am here. I can barely hear on the left side.



Alice's husband



Receptive aphasia - Alice had a stroke which involved Wernicke's area. She has difficulty understanding when spoken to.

Broca's area- responsible for speech production.



Expressive aphasia - Martha had a stroke that involved Broca's area. She knows what she wants to say, but has difficulty expressing herself. She gets frustrated and cries a lot. Be careful not to describe this as "confused".





Sam has had difficulty seeing clearly while driving. He refused to give up his driving privileges.

Occipital lobe - is responsible for vision

HEY SAM, WHY DID YOU NOT FOLLOW THE DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS?

Sam had a stroke about a year ago. His vision was affected and he was advised by his doctor to give up his driving privileges.

Tom had a stroke which involved the cerebellum and the occipital area of his brain. His fine motor movement and his vision have been affected.

occipital lobe -
responsible for
visual production



Cerebellum -
responsible for
equilibrium and
fine motor
movement.



I am having
a hard time
seeing my
cup.

Tom has no fine motor
movement of his right
hand.

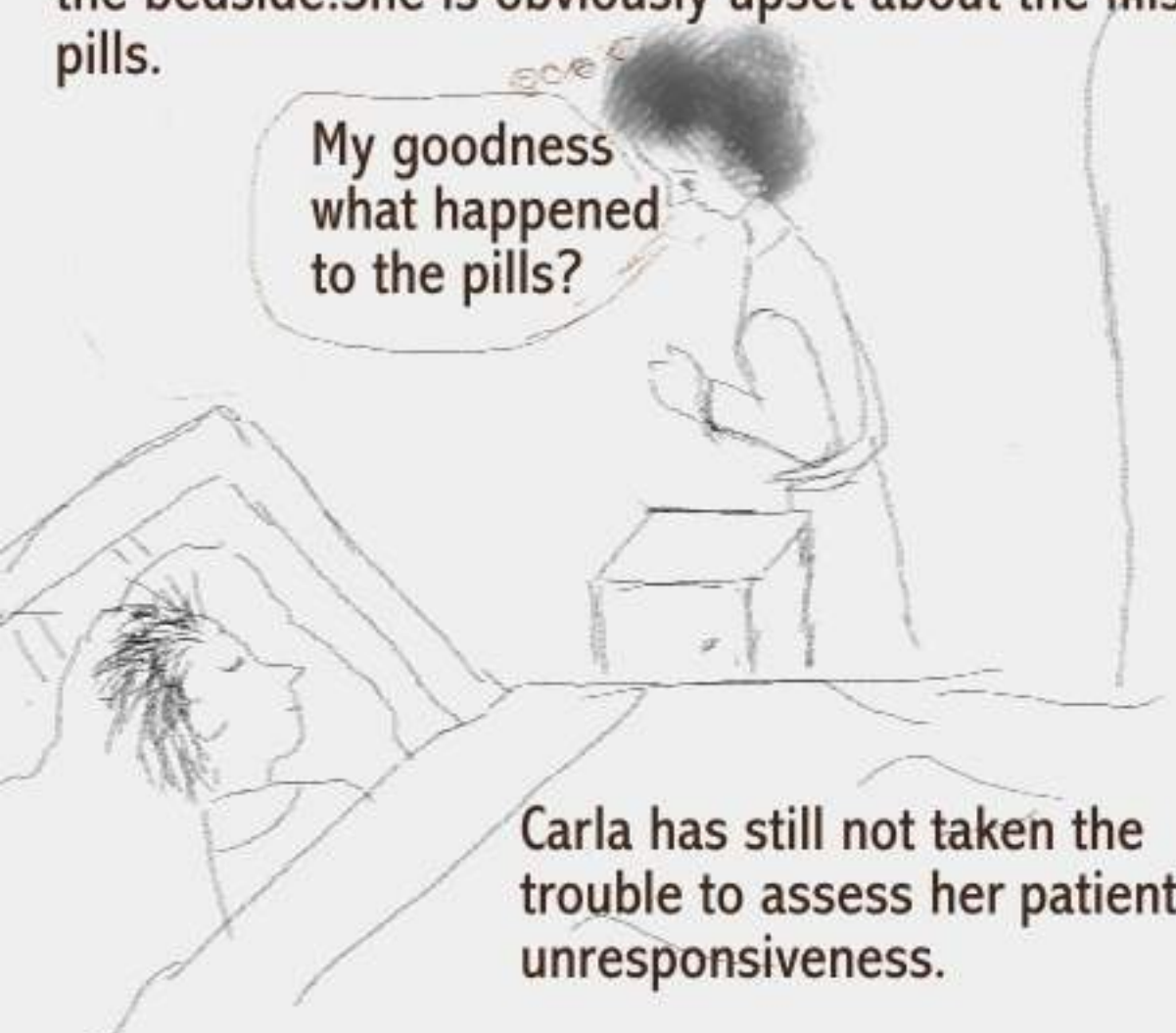
Carla is in a hurry to go to lunch.

Mr.Allen, this is the second time I have offered you your pills. I will leave them here so you can take them when you wake up.



WHAT IF YOU WERE IN CARLA'S POSITION?

Carla returns from lunch. The pills are no longer at the bedside. She is obviously upset about the missing pills.

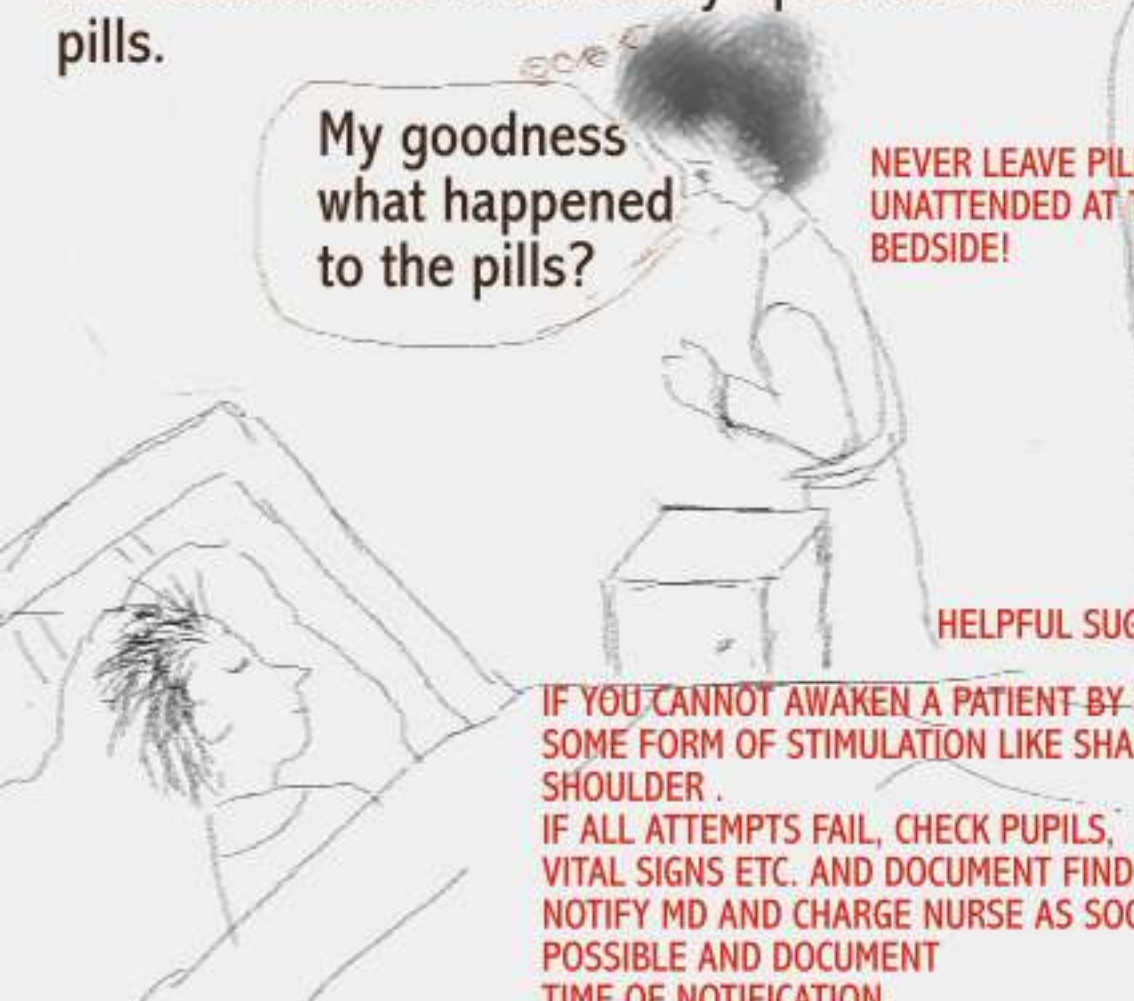


My goodness
what happened
to the pills?

Carla has still not taken the trouble to assess her patient's unresponsiveness.

WHAT IF YOU WERE IN CARLA'S POSITION?

Carla returns from lunch. The pills are no longer at the bedside. She is obviously upset about the missing pills.



My goodness
what happened
to the pills?

**NEVER LEAVE PILLS
UNATTENDED AT THE
BEDSIDE!**

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS :

**IF YOU CANNOT AWAKEN A PATIENT BY VOICE, TRY
SOME FORM OF STIMULATION LIKE SHAKING A
SHOULDER .**

**IF ALL ATTEMPTS FAIL, CHECK PUPILS,
VITAL SIGNS ETC. AND DOCUMENT FINDINGS.
NOTIFY MD AND CHARGE NURSE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AND DOCUMENT
TIME OF NOTIFICATION.**

ACCURATE PATIENT ASSESSMENT



- 2.If your patient continues not to respond, assess the airway for patency.
3. Check vital signs and oxygen saturation.
4. Document findings and notify MD. Your patient may need a work-up and a higher level of care if not in a monitored area.

1.If your patient does not respond when spoken to (following commands) Try some simple form of stimulation for example, shaking the shoulder or a gentle tap.
Be sure to document your assessment .

THE GLASGOW COMA SCALE IS THE COMMONLY USED NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT SCALE

DEAR NURSES,

HOPE YOU ENJOYED VOLUME 3 OF
"STROKE SERIES". VOLUME 4 "CORRECT
NEUROLOGICAL VOCABULARY " WILL BE
COMING SOON.EXAMPLES OF HOW TO
USE WORDS SUCH AS "WORD SALAD" AND
ANISOCORIA WILL BE GIVEN.

ENJOY LEARNING!

