Abstract S703

2012 Annual Meeting of the American Neurological Association in partnership with Association of British Neurologists

October 7–9, 2012; Marriott Copley Place Boston

The Lone Abducting Eye and Laterality of Motor Control: Congresswoman Giffords’ “Wrong-Way Eyes” Denotes Crossed Right Hemisphere Syndrome in a Right Hander

Iraj Derakhshan; Beckley, WV

Backgrounds and Methods: It is commonly believed that supratentorial lesions affecting the right (minor) hemisphere is associated with conjugate eye deviation toward that hemisphere (i.e. “the eyes have it”). Data indicate that this kind of eye deviation is often associated with left hemisensory neglect in right handed people. The “eye-sign” is ascribed to the unopposed action of the left (major) hemisphere in pulling both eyes to the right, with the left eye yoked by the right via the medial longitudinal bundle. Often associated with left hemiplegia, these cases are not aphasic as the left hemisphere remains intact. The “wrong way” eye deviation is often ascribed to hemorrhage in contralateral thalamus, without further explanation as to its mechanism.

The Congresswoman’s photos in the initial stage of her traumatic illness demonstrate that her left eye was deviated to the extreme left (i.e. towards the damaged hemisphere) as her right eye stopped at the middle.

Conclusion: Congresswoman Giffords’ is similar to those of right handers with lesions affecting their left (but minor) hemispheres; able to communicate fully nevertheless.

Study supported by: entirely private