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Word Reading after Left Cerebral Hemispherectomy

Reading, a strongly left-lateralized function, can be supported by the isolated right hemisphere. We compared age- and gender matched groups of individuals after left hemispherectomy (with both prenatal and postnatal primary insult) to developmental dyslexics. The right hemisphere can learn to read using both phonological and non-phonological routes following a perinatal insult and destruction of its left counterpart. Reading acquisition proved difficult in individuals who have contracted a disease after a period of normal development even if it was 1-2 years only. Dyslexics had a different profile of reading strengths and weaknesses in comparison to the hemispherectomy group.