

febrile seizure as an indication for lumbar puncture should be reexamined. Patients who recover consciousness rapidly should be observed, and the tap deferred. (Millichap JJ et al. Methods of investigation and management of infections causing febrile seizures. Presented at AAN 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, 2008; **Pediatr Neurol** 2008;39:381-386). In this study, 23% of febrile seizures were complex, and of these 50% received LP, a slightly lower percentage than that reported in the Boston study.

## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS**

### **FUNCTIONAL MRI NEURAL ACTIVATION PATTERNS IN EARLY AND LATE TALKERS**

Neural activation patterns, produced while listening to and reading words and non-words, were evaluated by functional MRI in 48 school children, mean age 8 years, in a study at Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT. Comparison of subsets of early, on-time and late talkers, matched for age, gender and performance IQ, showed that activation in bilateral thalamus and putamen, and left insula and superior temporal gyrus (circuits underlying speech and language) during these tasks was significantly lower in late talkers. Age of language acquisition has effects on reading and language behavior, and on corresponding cortical and subcortical neural circuitry. Late talkers were at risk for reading problems. The findings demonstrate the importance of early language development on formation of critical neural circuits and the need for prompt identification of language delays. (Preston JL, Frost SJ, Mencl WE, et al. Early and late talkers: school-age language, literacy and neurolinguistic differences. **Brain** August 2010;133:2185-2195). (Respond: Jonathan Preston, Haskins Laboratories, 300 George St, Suite 900, New Haven, CT 06511. E-mail: [preston@haskins.yale.edu](mailto:preston@haskins.yale.edu)).

COMMENT. This study underscores previous findings of the effect of age of talking on the development of language and literacy. Talking is strongly related to neural activation patterns, particularly in subcortical regions, putamen and thalamus, regions implicated in the Galaburda studies of dyslexia.

### **LEFT OCCIPITO-TEMPORAL LOCALIZATION OF READING EPILEPSY**

Researchers at Hôpital de la Timone, Marseille, France, report a 28-year-old woman with a history of a febrile seizure at age 4 years and recent onset of partial seizures precipitated by silent reading. Left occipito-temporal localization of the seizures was confirmed by EEG, PET and SPECT. During a seizure, she was unable to understand what she was reading, and after looking up from the page, she saw letters and words, had a feeling of strangeness, right hemi-body jerks, and secondary seizure generalization. Seizures were controlled with carbamazepine. Interictal EEG showed left temporal posterior spikes, and during video-EEG a seizure was recorded 5 min after silent reading of a woman's magazine, with left occipito-temporal predominance. Interictal PET showed bilateral occipito-temporal hypometabolism with left predominance, and ictal