

Mrs Brown is aged 80. She is accompanied to her GP's surgery by her daughter, who has become worried about lapses in her mother's memory. Mrs Brown has become very repetitive and had some lapses in her daily life (leaving pans on the heat, missed appointments). These problems have worsened over an 18-month period. The current visit has been triggered by three episodes of transient neurological disturbance during the past few weeks. In each, Mrs Brown appeared vacant and was unresponsive for some 30 seconds with facial twitches. Afterwards, she becomes lethargic and more densely confused, before returning to her usual state

1. What type or types of disease process might be seen to progress over an 18 month period?
2. Describe the structures of the limbic circuit, and the type of memory they subserve, and the other subtypes of memory.
3. Name some of the disease which might disrupt limbic function. Which is the most likely here?
4. What are the neural substrates of consciousness?
5. What accounts for Mrs Brown's episodes of neurological disturbance?

The Limbic System

