

Symbolic Functions

They are specific to humans and are the result of higher nervous activity.^[1]

Distribution of symbolic functions ^[1]

Phatic function

These include the ability to speak, read, write, calculate and think in abstract terms including semantics (the meaning of words).

Gnostic functions

They are the result of a higher synthesis of sensory perception. They make it possible to recognize objects by sight, hearing and touch.

Practical functions

It includes the ability to perform more complex purposeful movements

Symbolic functions and hemispheric dominance^[1]

Dominant Hemisphere

It is primarily responsible for phatic, less practical and least Gnostic functions. The dominant hemisphere mainly provides the following functions:

- Speech
- Reading
- Writing
- Counting
- Comprehension and repetition (words, sentences)
- Logical and analytical thinking

Non-dominant hemisphere

It ensures visual and spatial perception, behavior and orientation in the contralateral half of space. The majority of the population has a non-dominant right hemisphere, so this hemisphere will ensure the perception of the left half of space. Furthermore, the non-dominant hemisphere adds an affective and emotional component to speech.

Links

Related articles

- Disorders of symbolic functions
- Speech disorders

Reference

1. AMBLER, Zdeněk. *Základy neurologie*. 6. edition. Galén, 2006. 0 pp. ISBN 80-7262-433-4is.