

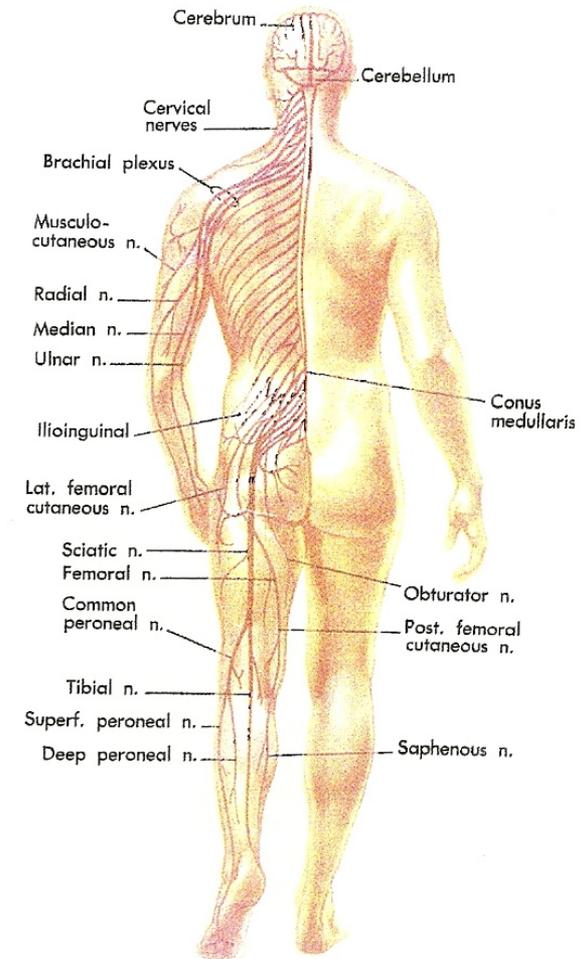


Disorders of Consciousness: Case Studies

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Outline

- ▶ Case presentations
- ▶ Topics in brain death
- ▶ Islamic bioethical perspectives
- ▶ Discussion points

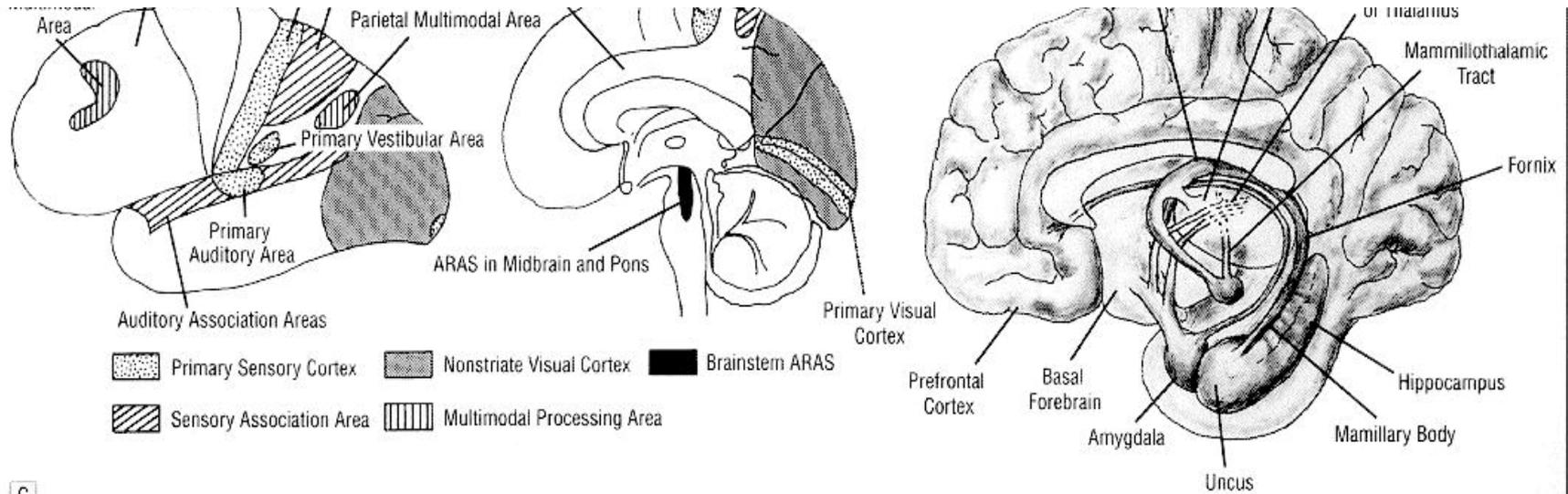


Case presentation 1

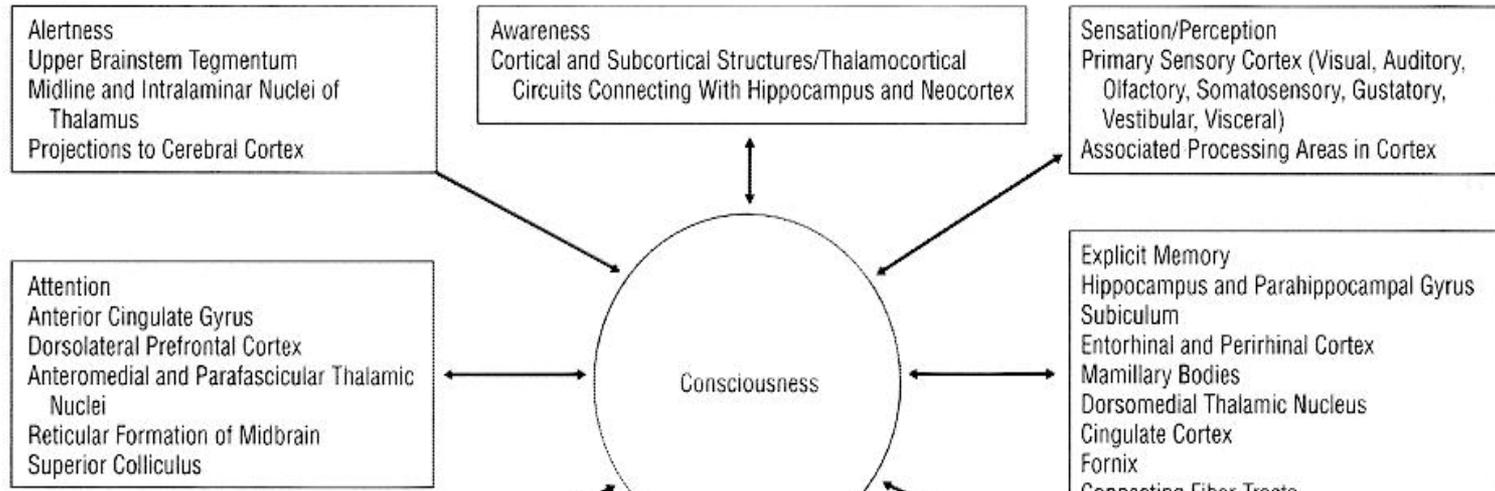
- ▶ 49 year old male
 - ▶ Drug and EtOH abuse
 - ▶ Admitted after cardiac arrest, required resuscitation
 - ▶ Pupils unreactive, brainstem signs absent
 - ▶ Drug abuse includes methamphetamine and cocaine which resulted in progressive strokes
 - ▶ Two head CTs suggest posterior circulation strokes including brainstem
 - ▶ Complications: Renal failure, heart arrhythmia
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Case 1: Follow-up

- ▶ **Brain MRI:** multiple acute strokes in both areas of cerebellum and brainstem
 - ▶ **EEG:** moderately diffuse slowing with some cortical irritability
 - ▶ Cerebral perfusion shows no blood flow
 - ▶ Within 2–3 weeks the patient began to move one of his extremities suggesting recovery
 - ▶ He subsequently passed away within 2 months of the stroke.
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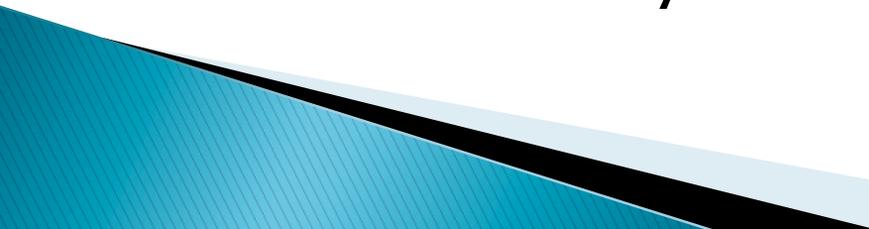
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Issues

- ▶ Diagnostic Challenges in Brain Death
 - Clinical Probability
- ▶ Ethical Imperative
 - Personhood
 - Legal Certainty: Process vs Event
- ▶ Islamic Ethico–Legal Perspectives
 - Soul–body
- ▶ Certainty in Islamic Law
 - Probabilities

Case 2

- ▶ 35 year old male admitted with Anoxia in a comatose state completely unresponsive
 - ▶ History involved overdosing on multiple drugs including Valium
 - ▶ Pupils eventually became unresponsive, brainstem signs were absent
 - ▶ Brain flow studies showed no flow and EEG brain rhythm became flat
 - ▶ Brain Death pronounced. Organ Procurement agency contacted – kept him on Vent for 4–5 additional days.....
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Case 3

- ▶ 73 year old male undergoing cardiothoracic surgery with multiple vessel bypass
 - ▶ He survived the surgery but suffered a stroke during the operation
 - ▶ On Exam he was awake, alert but unable to talk as he became ventilator dependent
 - ▶ His wife preferred to continue aggressive treatments but his directive was otherwise
 - ▶ His son mediated and terminated ventilator support.
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Issues

- ▶ Advance Directives and/or Power of Attorney
 - Decision making
- ▶ Futility of Care
 - Terminal weaning
- ▶ Organ Donation and Procurement
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