

Road Traffic Accidents and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

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Most Common Psychopathology After Trauma

A) General:

- Traumatic Depression = major depression and variants (atypical, bipolar, comorbid)
- Traumatic Anxiety Disorders: Panic disorder, phobias, GAD
- Secondary Substance Abuse

B) Trauma-Specific:

- PTSD
- Dissociative Disorders
- Conversion & Somatization Disorders
- Personality Disorders

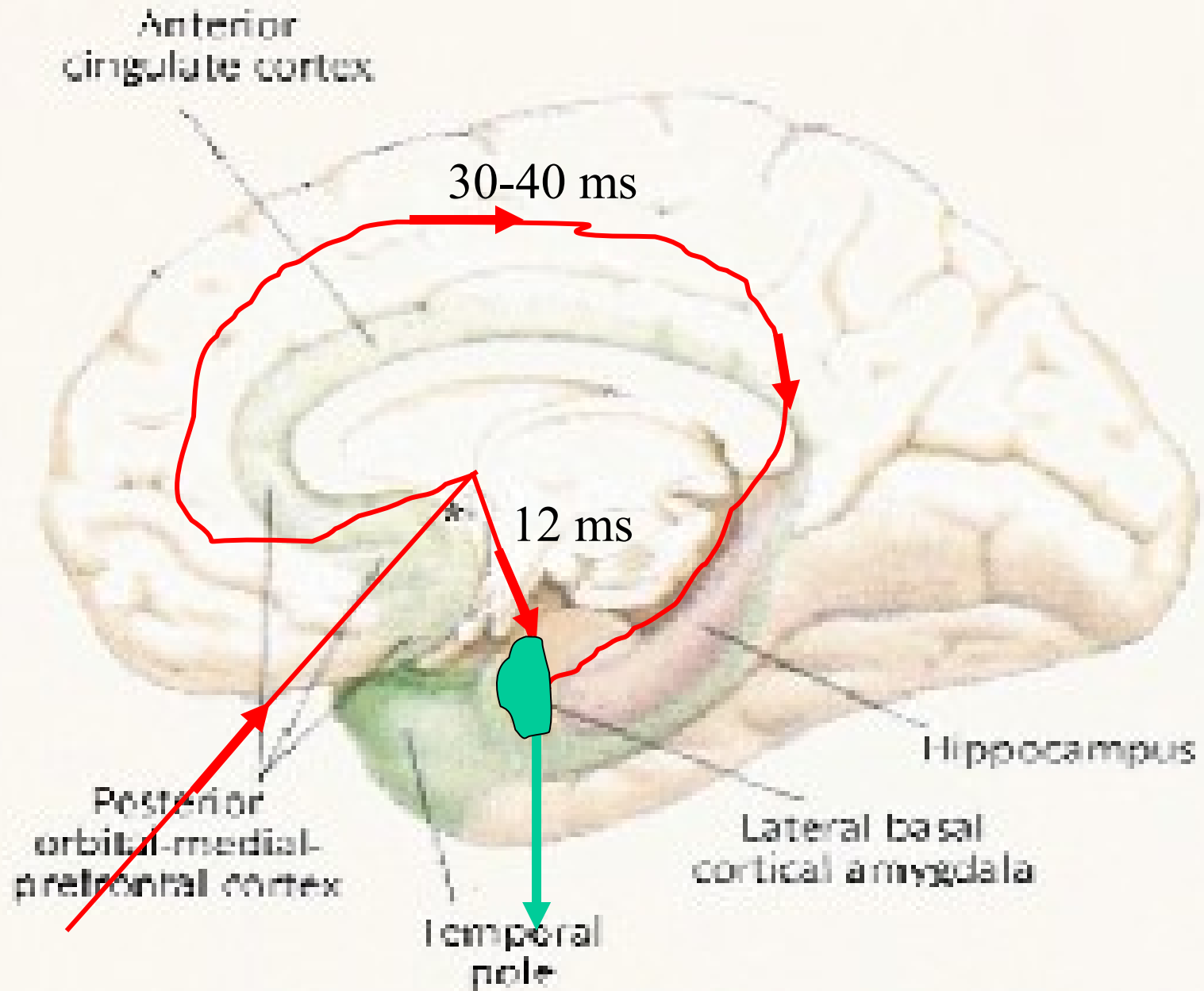
Road Traffic Accidents

- “Stress”= “A force that moves or distorts objects” (Newtonian concepts)
- Most common psychiatric complications:
 - ASD
 - PTSD (1-40%)
 - Phobias - driving, traveling, speed, blood-injury
 - Panic Disorders
 - Depressive Disorders
 - Others: Anger, General feeling of vulnerability, Unexplained physical symptoms.

MVA and Psychological Morbidity

- 46% developed PTSD and 20% Sub-Syndromal PTSD (Blanchard et al., 1994)
- After MVA = 4 types of outcome: PTSD, Phobic driving Anxiety, GAD, Depressive Disorder at 3 and 12 months (Mayou et al., 2001)
- Predictors of PTSD after MVA= A personal history of trauma, Major Depression, an Axis II disorder, a prior episode of PTSD, being female, Peritraumatic: Dissociations, Tachycardia, Anxiety, physical injuries

FIGURE 6. The Greater Limbic Lobe of the Human Brain²



For additional information regarding
this subject, please contact Dr. Novac
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