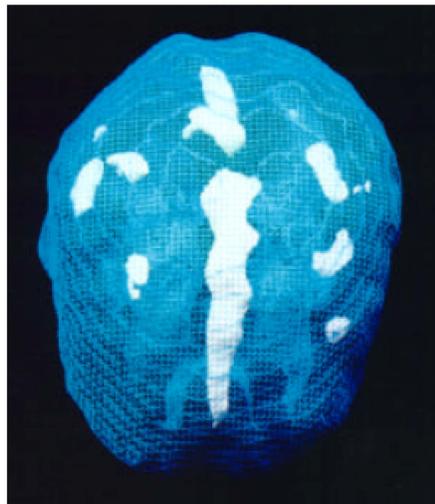
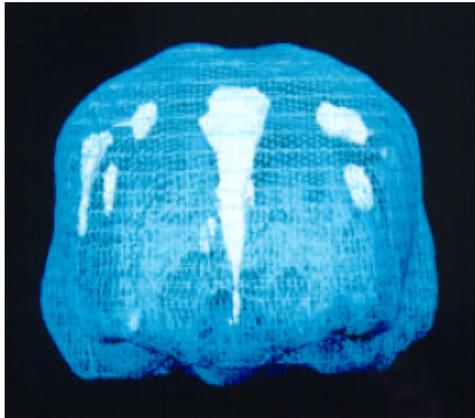


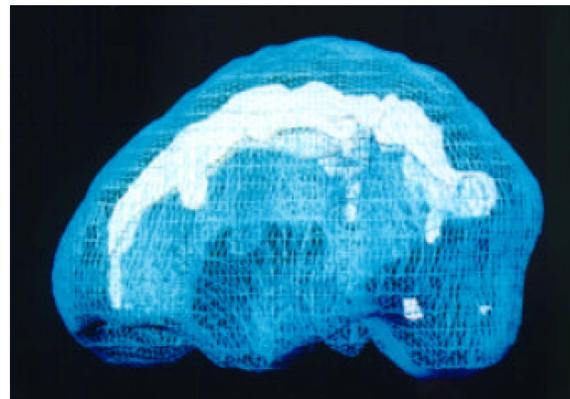
Pathological Gambling



top down active view



front on active view



side active view

marked increased cingulate activity

Adam came to our office when his wife left him. His gambling had gotten out of control. In the past few years he began neglecting his business spending more of his time at the racetrack and driving back and forth to the casinos in Reno and Lake Tahoe. "I feel compelled to gamble. I know it is ruining my life, but it seems I have to place a bet or the tension just builds and builds. It is all I think about!" Adam's SPECT study showed heavy increased cingulate activity. Explaining the cingulate system to Adam was helpful. He could identify many people in his family who had problems shifting attention. You should see our family gatherings," he told me, "someone is always mad at someone else. People in my family can hold grudges for years and years." In addition to going to Gamblers Anonymous and being seen in psychotherapy I prescribed a small dose of Prozac for him to help him shift away from the obsessive thoughts about gambling. Eventually, he was able to reconnect with his wife and rebuild his business.



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Images of Human Behavior:
A Brain SPECT Atlas,
by Daniel G. Amen, MD