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# Forced-choice recognition in patients with chronic deja vecu

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## Abstract

We have previously reported cases of dementia who present with almost continuous *deja vecu* - what we have described as recollective confabulation. By our view, these patients have a fronto-temporal deficit by which they misinterpret novelty as a retrieval experience, and in this leads them to experience 'recollection' of the present moment. On formal testing, this pattern is particularly pronounced for 'novel' low frequency words. In a case series we present 13 patients with dementia who presented with sensations of *deja vu* and *deja vecu*, and describe the core features of their experience. In particular, these patients are significantly more likely to assign false positives in yes/no tasks with the experience of recollection. For the first time we present an analysis of forced-choice recognition data, and find that the pattern of responses given by these *deja vecu* patients is no different from a group of participants with Alzheimer's disease without *deja vu* and *deja vecu* experiences. We suggest that intact familiarity processes are sufficient to overcome false sensations of recollection in this group - and this relatively normal performance establishes a boundary around recollective confabulation and its impact on recognition memory.

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