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PROSPECTIVE MEMORY DEFICITS
IN FRONTAL LOBE PATIENTS

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In the field of memory research, psychologists have recently indicated a distinct form of memory labeled prospective memory, the ability to remember to perform actions in the future. The role of attention and external cues have been implicated as determining factors in whether an individual remembers to perform an action. Many studies have focused on factors such as how the use of external cues facilitate recall, but relatively few have investigated a neurological basis for these errors in remembering. The present study attempted to investigate a possible role for the frontal lobes (and their association with attentional processes) in prospective memory errors. Frontal lobe patients, older adults, and undergraduates were asked to complete two computer-based, prospective memory tasks. The results of this research will be presented, as well as implications of this research for prevention of and therapy for prospective memory problems.