

The corpus callosum: from real to virtual dissection

O corpo caloso: da dissecção real para a virtual

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The corpus callosum is a complex assemble of commissural fibers that connects the two cerebral hemispheres, comprising a mean number of 138×10^6 myelinated fibers¹. The structure was first identified and named by Claudius Galenus (130-210 AD) who referred to the longitudinal 'callus-like body' in the median plane of the cerebrum, and overlying the anterior horn of the lateral ventricle (ca 177)². Later, Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564), described (pp 784-785), named (*cerebri callosum corpus*), and illustrated (Figures 3 and 4) the partially viewed structure in sections of the human brain, in his *Fabrica* (1543)^{2,3}. Achille-Louis Foville (1799–1878) presented a well enough dissected, described, and depicted human corpus callosum (1844) (Plate 15)(Figure 1)⁴.

The tractography technique, bases for virtual dissection, appeared in 1992, and in the following years such kind of investigation was implemented⁵. A tractographic study of the fornix is here presented (Figure 2).

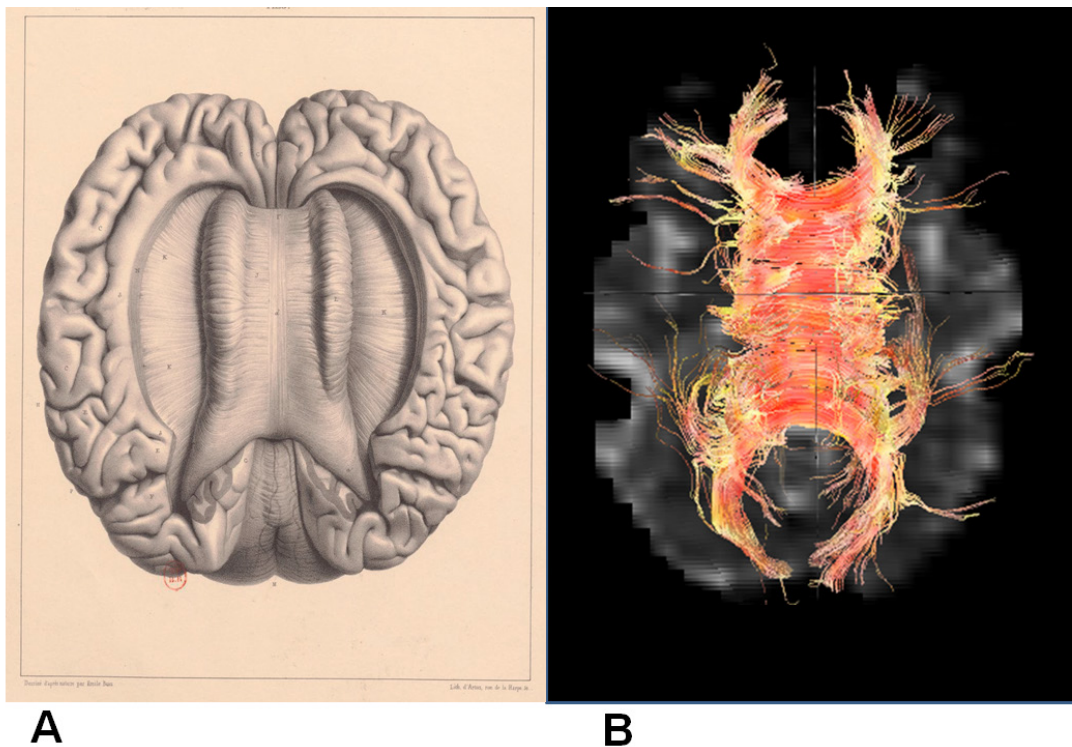


Figure. Corpus callosum dissections of the human brain.
 A. Foville's "real dissection" (Plate 15)⁴.
 B. Tractographic "virtual dissection" (axial view) (adapted from Engelhardt and Moreira, 2008, with permission of the RBN [2008;44(4):19-34]).

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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