**Another Day in the Frontal Lobe**

**Katrina Firlik**

1. What does Firlik compare the brain’s consistency to and why?
2. What is the ratio of the brain to blood to cerebrospinal fluid?
3. What other part of the body do neurosurgeons operate on?
4. What is the difference between neurosurgeons and neurologists?
5. Despite being a neurologist, what author inspired Firlik to focus on surgery for the brain and why?
6. What animal did Firlik operate on for her research in med school?
7. Which did Firlik find more resilient after a stroke: a gerbil’s brain or a human’s brain?
8. In the past, how much of the head did neurosurgeons shave in order to operate?
9. What are aneurysms?
10. What specific varieties do neurosurgeons come in?
11. What is the nickname for the blood that clogs the hospital’s drains?
12. What is a typical to-do list for a resident on call?
13. How do the two theories of evolution distinguish themselves?
14. Why does Firlik compare a neurosurgeon’s life to the two theories of evolution?
15. What is the standardized grading scale for head injury patients?
16. Why do neurosurgeons use MRIs for surgery?.
17. Why did the use of a new, advanced laser sighting mechanism not go as planned even though it was so high tech?
18. What does Firlik sometimes find more difficult that the surgery itself?
19. In what ways does a neurosurgeon’s approach to talking to a patient differ?
20. How is a ‘brain tumor’ not specific to brains?
21. What part of the brain do gliomas come from and why are they so dangerous?
22. What does Firlik say the fault of a brain tumor is?
23. What ‘superficial’ reason does Firlik admire about neurosurgery?
24. What did one study from California say about the brain?
25. Who serves as a scapegoat when a neurosurgery doesn’t go as plan?
26. What is the average weight of a brain?
27. Why does Firlik try not to think too much about questions of futility when dealing with neurosurgery?
28. What is one of the more ‘messier’ cases of neurosurgery?
29. What instrument revolutionized neurosurgery?
30. What are some common misconceptions about neurosurgeons?
31. The ratio of activation between the right and left frontal lobes is tied to what emotion?
32. What type of surgery does Firlik consider to be the ‘purest’ and why?
33. Why can some neurosurgeons perform ‘awake craniotomy’ without causing pain to the patient?
34. What warnings did Firlik’s friends already out in practice give to her?
35. What do the residents want as quickly as possible?
36. Besides saving lives, why does Firlik say she has had her hand in ending lives? What is an example?
37. What segments is the spine made up of?
38. What are the three possibilities why people of all shapes and ages get degenerative spine disease?
39. What new procedure is being used to increase memory? What is an alternate procedure?