

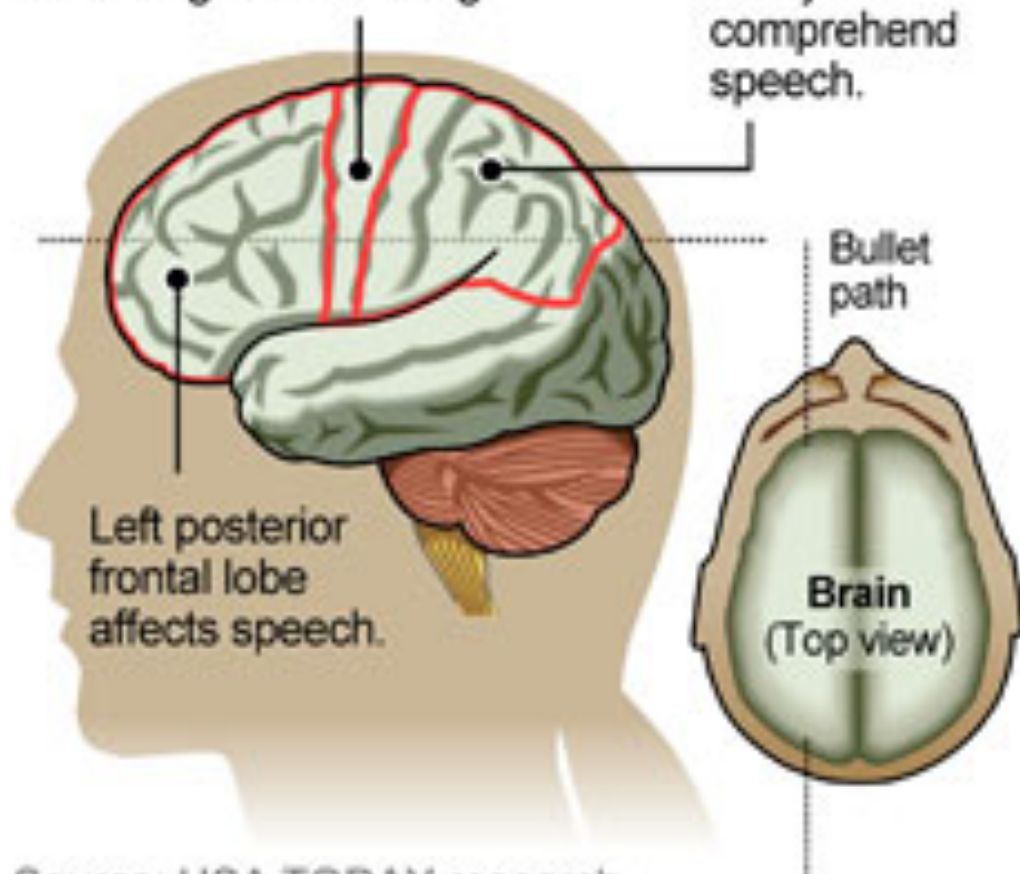
■ CRITICAL INJURY

The bullet that pierced the left side of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' brain passed near critical nerve centers that govern speech, movement and vision, her doctors say. They won't reveal the bullet's precise path, at the request of the family, but it appears to have missed centers deep in the brain that are essential for breathing, heartbeat and nerve function.

The brain centers closest to the bullet's path are:

Left motor cortex, which governs movements of the right side of the face and the right arm and leg.

Left parietal lobe, which controls the ability to comprehend speech.



Source: USA TODAY research
By Frank Pompa, USA TODAY