
Abstract: Article addresses the issue of informed consent in individuals with aphasia. Informed consent is the term used for a process of discussion of the risks, benefits, and alternatives to surgical or other medical interventions. Patients must have decision making capacity (DMC) as a prerequisite for providing informed consent. Language and/or cognitive impairments after stroke can pose significant challenges in the assessment of DMC and the patients’ ability to provide informed consent. Although DMC may be preserved with aphasia, the patients’ ability to verbally formulate a response to exercise DMC is frequently impaired. The authors propose the use of a patient-selected helper during the informed consent process to improve the quality of the informed consent, while reserving final decision-making authority for the patient with aphasia.


Abstract: Article describes Aphasia Talks, a photography class developed to facilitate self-expression in people with aphasia. A model based on the goals of reintegration, recreation, education, socialization, and strengthening was used to design the class and corresponding website (AphasiaTalks.org) with, rather than for, people with stroke. Through the use of the class as a research tool, the redesign of a digital camera that could be used by people with limited mobility was begun. Exit interviews conducted with each participant following the 5-week course revealed that all participants would take the class again.


Abstract: Case study describes the use of written language to promote the language rehabilitation process in a young man with aphasia as the result of a brain injury. The automatic movement of his hands while writing with a pencil on paper, (the memory of the movement strategy) enabled the subject to initiate thoughts and ideas and restore his language.


Abstract: Study examined the neurobiological correlates of improved picture-naming performance in two patients with aphasia who received intensive and specific training for a chronic and severe phonological anomia. Picture-naming performance was assessed before and after phonological cueing training. Training-induced changes in patients’ performance were correlated to brain activation patterns as revealed by pre- and post-training event-related functional magnetic resonance image scanning. Training-induced improvement was observed concurrently with changes in the brain activation patterns. Better performance was observed in the patient with the smaller lesion.
Current Literature - Selections from REHABDATA


Abstract: Speech and language therapists were surveyed about their views on the importance and role of the psychosocial factors in the management of aphasia. Overall, there was strong agreement about the importance of the psychosocial effects of aphasia intervention. Participants who believed that psychosocial aspects were important to overall management of the client also believed that these factors were important to the outcome of the intervention. Quality of life was found to be an important dimension in psychosocial function, and premorbid experiences were perceived as affecting the outcome of the interventions. A range of methods for addressing psychosocial functions were reported. Participants expressed concerns about managing service delivery and reported variations in time spent on psychosocial issues.


Abstract: Performance on automatic speech recognition (ASR) systems was analyzed for 23 users with physical disabilities to determine the effect of 20 different independent variables on recognition accuracy and text entry rate. Factors that may influence ASR performance include: (1) hardware and software, (2) ASR training and experience, (3) ASR usage techniques, (4) computer experience and usage, and (5) user characteristics. Results showed that use of appropriate correction strategies had the strongest influence on user performance with ASR. The amount of time the user spent on his or her computer, the user’s manual typing speed, and the speed with which the ASR system recognized speech were all positively associated with better performance. The amount of perceived adequacy of ASR training did not have a significant impact on performance.

The American Speech Language Hearing Association offers monthly podcasts featuring interviews with people making news in the field. Sign up and listen up at www.asha.org/podcast.

Where Can I Find More?
A quick keyword search is all you need to connect to a wealth of disability and rehabilitation research. NARIC’s databases hold more than 75,000 resources. Visit www.naric.com/research to search for literature, current and past research projects, and organizations and agencies in the US and abroad.

Cochrane Reviews on the topic of aphasia include one review for pharmacological interventions and two for speech and language therapy. It also lists three other reviews and three methods studies. More than 200 clinical trials are included in the search results as well. View these online at www.thecochranelibrary.org


Abstract: Article presents the stories of three older adults with aphasia following stroke. These case studies provide an example of the impact of aphasia on daily communication and the nature of conversations with family and friends. Each person’s story is presented through a descriptive summary based on multiple data sources, including biographical information, social network diary entries, qualitative interviews, and stimulated recall of natural conversations.


Abstract: Article describes the perspectives of four older women with stroke and aphasia, as well as their family members’ perspectives, regarding the quality of their lives. The impact of aphasia varies across the cases and the need to accept change to live successfully is illustrated in each of their stories.


Abstract: Study reviewed published stories written by people with aphasia to understand what it takes to live successfully with stroke and aphasia. Four themes emerged from the 20 articles and books that met the selection criteria for review. First, positive social support was identified as a critical factor in living successfully. Second, successful living appears to require a change in self-concept. Third, most of the writers looked to the future and set new goals. Finally, the writers emphasized the importance of taking charge of their own continued communication improvement.


Abstract: In-depth interviews were conducted with three individuals who live full and satisfying lives with stroke and aphasia. These three were chosen to reflect different types and severities of aphasia, lengths of time post-onset, lifestyles, and issues. Similarities and differences in their successful adjustments are discussed. The author compares the subjects in a general way to a larger group of individuals who live well with aphasia and contrasts them to another larger group of individuals who have been less able to establish fulfilling lives.