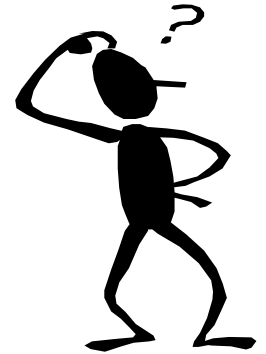


Communication and Stroke



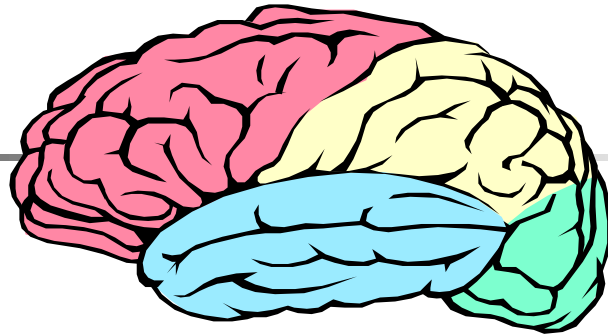
Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA TM) Shirley Williams Speech Language Pathologist



GOALS

- Understanding Communication Impairments following Stroke
- Achieving an
“Accessible” Communication Environment
- Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™)

Stroke and the Brain



LEFT SIDE OF BRAIN

- Right side of body
- Spoken Language
- Written Language
- Reasoning
- Number skills

RIGHT SIDE OF BRAIN

- Left side of body
- Spatial orientation
- Creativity
- Artistic awareness
- Music

APHASIA

~~**APHASIA**~~



Motor Problems after Stroke

- ***Dysarthria*** = speech muscles weak, slow, uncoordinated; slurred **SPEECH**
- ***Dysphagia*** = Difficulty swallowing
- ***Apraxia*** = brain has trouble telling speech muscles how to move; unintelligible **SPEECH**

What is APHASIA?

- **Language** problem caused by brain injury e.g. STROKE

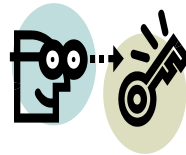


- NOT loss of language
 - Language still there, just difficult to access

TONGUE^{IT}

What is APHASIA?

- Aphasia may affect:
 - **Speaking**
 - e.g. know word but can't get it out
 - **Understanding**
 - **Reading**
 - **Writing**
- Can affect all or some areas





FACTS

- **18-38%** of stroke survivors affected by aphasia
- **2X** people with aphasia as Parkinson's Disease (*The Aphasia Institute*)
- Over **100 000** people affected in Canada
- Over **30 000** people affected in Ontario





Communication Problems Interfere with Service Delivery

- Health Care Providers need to know information about a patient (i.e., pain, address, bathroom, allergies, code status).
 - No one else is present
 - Those present do not have the answers
 - As with any of us, people with aphasia often prefer to give their own personal information

How do you support a conversation?

SCA™

- **Video clip**

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M.D.
B.Sc..
P.S.W.



Goals of SCA™ for Health Care Professionals

- Get your message **IN**
- Let the patient with Aphasia generate their message **OUT**
- **VERIFY** message



IN

- Slow, simple, short
- Repeat and rephrase
- Write key words
- Use meaningful gestures
- Use pictures
- Give choices
- Quiet (auditory and visual) room



OUT

- Ask **YES/NO** questions and make sure there is a way to respond (verbal, gesture)
- Encourage them to point to objects, pictures or written key words
- Give time for response
- Be patient



VERIFY

- Check accuracy and intention
 - e.g., yes or no (verbal, gesture, picture)
- Summarize the message
 - “Let me make sure I understand ...”



Best Practice Goals

- Screen for language difficulties and refer to SLP where suspected
- Communication picture symbols available for patients with Aphasia
- Health Care Professionals able to support communication with patients with Aphasia
- Patients with Aphasia able to **efficiently** and **effectively** participate in their own healthcare



Resources

- CMAJ, Dec. 2008, Best Practice Recommendations
- Aphasia Institute, Supported Conversation
- Quinte Health Care, Speech-Language Pathologists:
 - Shirley Williams, SLP, ext. 2576
 - Shawn Allen, SLP, ext. 2117
 - Natalie Rolston Communication Disorder Assistant, ext. 2576

Thank You.

- Questions or Comments?

IRI|E|A|D|I|N|G|