

Aphasia

What is Aphasia?

A stroke that affects the left side of the brain may lead to aphasia, a language impairment that makes it difficult to use language in those ways. Aphasia can have tragic consequences.



People with aphasia:

- ✓ May be disrupted in their ability to use language in ordinary circumstances.
- ✓ May have difficulty communicating in daily activities.
- ✓ May have difficulty communicating at home, in social situations, or at work.
- ✓ May feel isolated.

“Aphasia means I have lost my words not my intellect”

People with comprehension problems:

- ✓ Know that people are speaking to them.
- ✓ Can follow some of the melody of sentences — realizing if someone is asking a question or expressing anger.
- ✓ May have great difficulty understanding specific words.
- ✓ May have great difficulty understanding how words go together to convey a complete thought.

Tips to begin your recovery:

- ✓ Educate yourself about aphasia so you can learn a new way to communicate.
- ✓ Close family members need to be involved so they can understand their loved one's communication needs and begin to learn ways to facilitate speech and language.
- ✓ Experiment with strategies that facilitate social interaction during your rehabilitation.
- ✓ Many stroke survivors with communication challenges compensate by writing or drawing to supplement verbal expression, or use gestures or a picture communication book, or even a computer communication system.

Simple communication techniques:

- ✓ Ask yes/no questions.
- ✓ Paraphrase periodically during conversation.
- ✓ Modify the length and complexity of conversations.
- ✓ Use gestures to emphasize important points.
- ✓ Establish a topic before beginning conversation.



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