Communication with Aphasic Patients

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Objectives:
- Identify the different communication impairments commonly associated with stroke
- Discuss multiple options for improving communication effectiveness when interacting with patients post stroke
COMMUNICATING WITH PATIENTS POST STROKE
Communication Impairments Post Stroke

**MOTOR SPEECH**
- Dysarthria
  - Ataxic
  - Flaccid
  - Hyper/hypo Kinetic
  - Spastic
  - Mixed
- Apraxia of Speech
- Fluency

**LANGUAGE**
- Aphasia
  - Expressive
    - Brocas
    - Transcortical Motor
    - Subcortical
  - Receptive
    - Wernickes
    - Transcortical Sensory
  - Conduction
  - Global
Dysarthria Presentations

- Slurred speech
- Low volume
- Rushed Rate
- Monotone
- Rate changes

Added challenge of dentures
Anomia
Telegraphic speech
Paraphasia
  - Literal
  - Verbal
Perseveration
Neologisms
Decreased comprehension
For treatment approach and available skills for communication
Challenges in communicating with a Patient with Aphasia

- Can look engaged with appropriate affect (facial expression) but have very limited accuracy
- Can be using context to support auditory comprehension
- May not be producing accurate y/n but comprehension is generally intact
- Rote phrases/automatic interactions grossly intact but instruction/new learning impaired
Establish Y/N Accuracy

Speech therapy will do this upon admit and on a regular basis

- Remove contextual cues
- Account for guessing/chance
  - Alternate questions (may often choose last presentation)
- Add physical assistance
  - Hands (R and L)
  - Fingers #1 and #2 or thumbs up/down
  - Pictures
  - Written words
- Add cues
  - Phonemic
  - Cloze
  - Repetition
  - Gestures
  - Attention (face/mouth)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF PATIENT</th>
<th>COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF THERAPIST</th>
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<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Follow instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needs met</td>
<td>Understand purpose/carryover</td>
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<td>Relationships</td>
<td>New learning</td>
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<td>Follow direction</td>
<td>Build trust/rapport</td>
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<td>Safety</td>
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<td>Recovery</td>
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<td>New understanding</td>
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Communicating with Aphasic Patient

- Stay positive
  - Agree (communicate trust and reassurance that they are being taken care of)
    - Yes
    - Smile
    - Nod
  - Keep it simple
    - Short
    - Basic words

- Repeat
  - Multiple times
- Describe
  - Verbs vs nouns
- Give Support
  - Cues
  - Hands
  - Choice
  - Gestures
  - Context
  - Model
- Get and maintain attention
  - Eyes/face/paper
Communicating with Dysarthric Patient

- Slow
- Loud
- Spell target word
- Clarify