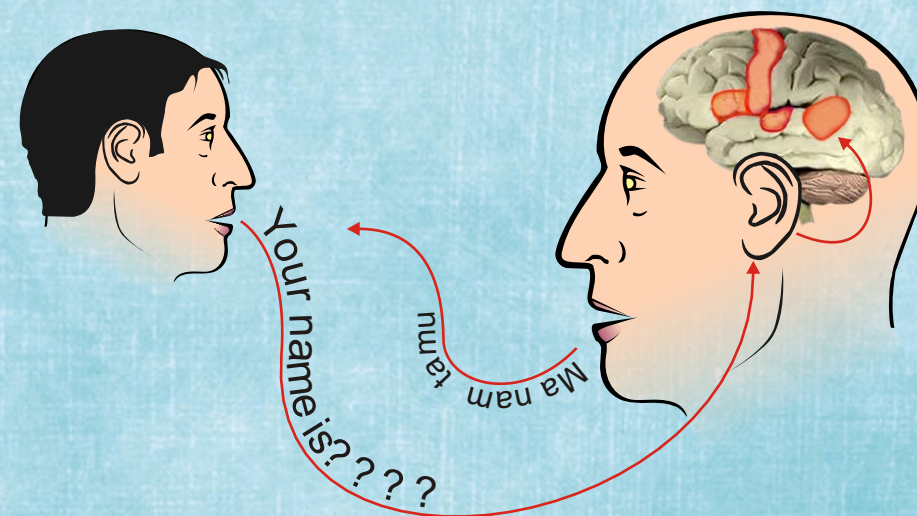


Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) works to improve specific language skills that are affected by damage to parts of brain. At times SLP will help to *compensate* for language problems, and *learn other methods* of communication such as communication boards. Individual therapy focuses on the specific needs of the person, while group therapy offers the opportunity to use new communication skills in a small-group setting. Family involvement is often a crucial component of aphasia treatment.

Family members are encouraged to:

- ▶ Simplify language by using short, uncomplicated sentences
- ▶ Repeat the content words or write down key words to clarify meaning as needed.
- ▶ Maintain a natural conversational manner appropriate for an adult.
- ▶ Minimize distractions, such as a loud radio or TV, whenever possible.
- ▶ Include the person with aphasia in conversations.
- ▶ Encourage any type of communication, whether it is speech, gesture, pointing, or drawing.

What is Aphasia ?



Department of Prevention of Communication Disorders (POCD)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND INFORMATION

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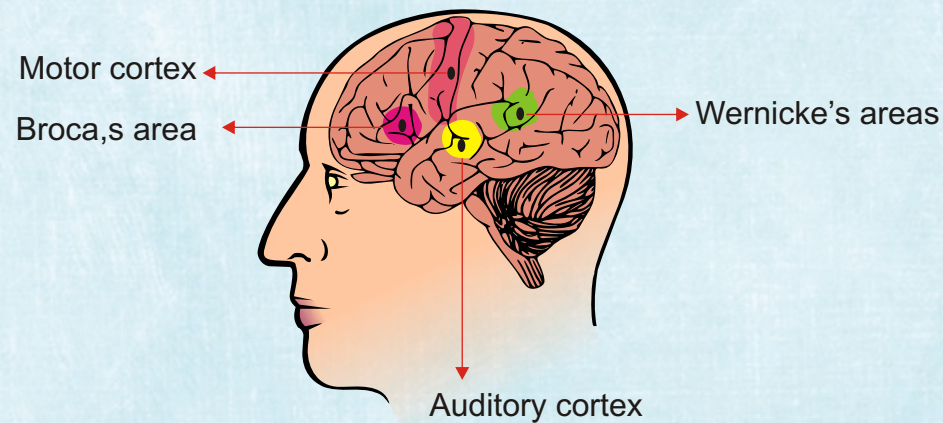
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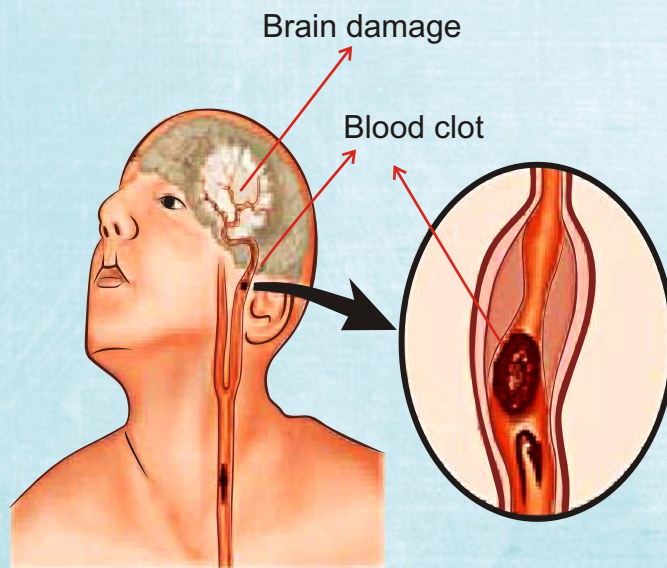
What is aphasia?

Aphasia is a disorder that results from damage to some parts of the brain that are responsible for language. A person with aphasia can have problems in expression, understanding of language, reading and writing.



What causes aphasia?

Aphasia often results as a result of stroke or head injury. It may also develop slowly, as in the case of brain tumor, an infection and so on.



Symptoms

A Person with Aphasia may have the following symptoms:

1. Speaks in short or incomplete sentences
2. Speaks in sentences that don't make sense
3. Speaks unrecognizable words
4. Difficulty understanding other's conversation
5. Difficulty to Interpret figurative language literally
6. Writes sentences that don't make sense

Who can develop aphasia?

Anyone can acquire aphasia, including children, but most individuals who have aphasia are middle-aged or elderly. Men and women are affected equally.

Whom to consult :

A person who suffers stroke /head injury should seek instant medical attention from a Physician / Neurologist. Later he/she may eventually be referred to a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP).

SLP performs a comprehensive examination of the person's communication abilities such as to speak, mode of expression, converse socially, understand language, read, and write, as well as the ability to swallow.

How is aphasia treated?

Language recovery varies depending on the size, nature of the lesion, age and overall health of the individual. If the brain damage is mild, a person may recover language skills without treatment. However, the extent of the recovery may vary depending on the severity of the damage.

For most cases, however, language recovery is not as quick or as complete. While many persons with aphasia experience partial recovery of language abilities. Some amount of language disturbance persists. In these instances, speech-language therapy is recommended. Recovery usually continues from few days to over a period of two-years.