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I am a current member of the ASNR (Symposium organizers must be ASNR members): No

Title of Symposium: Phonology-Focused Intensive Speech Therapy Promotes Language Recovery Post Stroke Aphasia

Description of submitted symposium (please limit to 2000 characters): Background: Naming impairments remain the most common and pervasive language difficulties in individuals with aphasia. The relationships between individual locus of word retrieval breakdown and their response to specific treatment approaches remains unclear. Also there is a dearth of studies comparing the interventions, with similar structure (limiting the differences in intervention to type of cue) but different treatment targets, i.e. semantic/phonology. Methodology: 4 individuals with aphasia were randomized to receive semantic feature analysis (SFA) or phonological component analysis (PCA) over 16 weekly treatment sessions. Reading and naming assessments were done using Western Aphasia Battery (WAB), Boston Naming Test (BNT), Psycholinguistic Assessment of Language Processing in Aphasia (PALPA) and Programmed Reading for Adults at baseline, at 16 weeks and at follow up assessment 3 weeks after end of therapy. Results: Improvement in naming (as measured by BNT) along with Letter Length Reading and Letter Sounding subsets of PALPA were much greater in individuals who received PCA as compared to the ones who received SFA. All participants showed improvement in Sequential Command and Repetition subsets of WAB. Conclusion: PCA appears to be beneficial despite differences in underlying impairments. Understanding the relationship between the patient's locus of breakdown in word retrieval and their response to different treatment tasks has the potential to optimize targeted treatment. Having said that further studies with a larger sample size are needed to tease out the specifics.

Length of time required for symposium?: 60

Additional Presenters (Limited to 4 additional presenters, list full name and email address) Please

Note: Any Non-member speakers must receive prior approval from the Program Chair.:

What is the role of each presenter?:

Objective 1: Describe major elements of the study design

Objective 2: Discuss the authors' conclusions

Objective 3: Identify possible implications for practice
