Group intervention in Primary Progressive Aphasia

Developing effective models to drive successful communication participation, engagement and support

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Disclosures

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  - Relevant non-financial relationships: Serve as reviewer for peer-reviewed journals

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Disclosures

- Dr. Angela C. Roberts is employed by Northwestern University, Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (School of Communication).
  - Financial: She sits on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research for which she receives an annual stipend from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. In the last 12-months, Dr. Roberts has received speaker honoraria from the Parkinson Foundation and Parkinson Society Southwest Ontario. Dr. Roberts received research funding (including salary support) from the National Institutes of Health.
  - Non-Financial: She holds two U.S. patents and has a nonfinancial relationship with Wearafi, Incorporated. She also sits on the Editorial Board for the Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology for which she does not receive compensation. She has an unpaid adjunct research faculty appointment with the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Roberts has an unpaid appointment on the Research Policy Committee for Parkinson Society Canada.

- Marie Saxon, B.S.
  - Financial: None to report
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Two PPA Group Models:
Multi-Modal Training   Online Support & Education

Themes

"It has been so helpful to explore other ways of communicating and to intentionally practice them."

"I think I'm stronger with all of this information."

"This has helped ease the pain of dealing with increasing dependency."

"I've learned to be resilient I think, in making adaptations."

"This is a place where you can share with people what you just can't share anywhere else, people who understand what you are going through."

"It was so important to be with others who understand; to connect and have community"

"We've grown in self-confidence through learning compensatory strategies ."

"This is working, it is helping. I've never had the chance to interact with others that have PPA."

"Very helpful to learn ways to communicate that we might not need now, but will in the future."

Lessons learned

- GROUPS for people with PPA are necessary and valuable
- Successful PPA group models are different from traditional Stroke Aphasia/Dementia groups
- Successful outcomes are based on
  1. Achievable research questions and data collection
  2. Expectations set at beginning of group formation
  3. Three components included in each group session
     1. PPA education component
     2. Strategy instruction
     3. Emotional support
- A telehealth platform reduces barriers to system delivery