EFFECT OF GROUP APHASIA TREATMENT ON WORD RETRIEVAL SKILLS

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- Aphasia treatment has typically targeted linguistic and communication deficits in an individualized clinical setting. Treatments of this nature yield clinical improvements but patients lack generalization to other communicative environments, such as home, work, and community.
- The current study was initiated to determine whether or not there was a treatment effect of multipurpose group aphasia treatment (GAT) on word retrieval skills and connected speech of persons with aphasia (PWA).

METHODS (continued)

Scoring

Effect Size:

- Both participants demonstrated progress for percent correct responses:
  - Non-fluent: large effect size ($d = .625$)
  - Fluent: moderate effect size ($d = .476$)
- Neither participant demonstrated improvement on untrained items/activities

RESULTS

Spoken Naming and Gesture Production Probes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correct Items on Boston Naming Test$^6$</th>
<th>Picture Stimulus Percent Correct Information Units$^7$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-testing</td>
<td>Post-testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-testing</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean Rating on the ASHA Quality of Communicative Life$^9$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-testing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>4.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4.87</td>
<td>4.77</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- Activity level of difficulty
- Consistency of cues/accuracy of responses

FUTURE RESEARCH

- More controlled structure of GAT
- Design study using evidence-based treatments
- Design study using natural everyday activities
- Control for difficulty of stimulus items specific participants

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REFERENCES