



## Aphasia

Aphasia is a neurological disorder caused by damage to the portions of the brain that are responsible for language. Primary signs of the disorder include difficulty in expressing oneself when speaking, trouble understanding speech, and difficulty with reading and writing. Aphasia is not a disease, but a symptom of brain damage. Most commonly seen in adults who have suffered a stroke, aphasia can also result from a brain tumor, infection, head injury, or dementia that damages the brain. It is estimated that about 1 million people in the United States today suffer from aphasia. The type and severity of language dysfunction depends on the precise location and extent of the damaged brain tissue.

Generally, aphasia can be divided into four broad categories: (1) *Expressive aphasia* involves difficulty in conveying thoughts through speech or writing. The patient knows what he wants to say, but cannot find the words he needs. (2) *Receptive aphasia* involves difficulty understanding spoken or written language. The patient hears the voice or sees the print but cannot make sense of the words. (3) Patients with *anomic* or *amnesia aphasia*, the least severe form of aphasia, have difficulty in using the correct names for particular objects, people, places, or events. (4) *Global aphasia* results from severe and extensive damage to the language areas of the brain. Patients lose almost all language function, both comprehension and expression. They cannot speak or understand speech, nor can they read or write.

Source: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

### **National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders**

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/voice/aphasia.asp>

NIDCD provides information about aphasia.

Information is available in the following languages: English, Spanish

1 Communication Avenue

Bethesda, MD 20892-3456

Toll-free: (800) 241-1044

Toll-free TTY: (800) 241-1055

E-mail: [nidcdinfo@nidcd.nih.gov](mailto:nidcdinfo@nidcd.nih.gov)

**National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS):** NINDS Aphasia Information Page

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/aphasia/aphasia.htm>

NINDS provides information about aphasia: symptoms, causes, diagnoses, prognosis, treatments, links to studies, and research literature.

**MedlinePlus: Aphasia**

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/aphasia.html>

MedlinePlus provides resources with information about aphasia. Section headings include: overview, diagnosis/symptoms, journal articles, and clinical trials.

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association**

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/Aphasia.htm>

ASLHA provides information about communication disorders including aphasia.

**National Aphasia Association**

<http://www.aphasia.org/>

7 Dey St., Suite 600

New York, NY, 10007

Phone: 1-800-922-4622

Fax: 212-267-2812

National Aphasia Association provides education materials, support groups, email newsletters, and advocacy.

**Emedicine: WebMD article on Aphasia**

<http://www.emedicine.com/NEURO/topic437.htm>

**Aphasia Hope Foundation**

<http://www.aphasiahope.org/>

Provides provide education materials about stroke and aphasia, support groups, camps, conferences, and research.

**Merck Manual— Online Home Edition**

<http://www.merck.com/mmpe/sec16/ch210/ch210d.html>

The Merck Manual provides information about neurological disorders and aphasia.

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please see [www.paralysis.org](http://www.paralysis.org) and click the Lending Library tab.

**Books**

**The Aphasia Handbook: A Guide for Stroke and Brain Injury Survivors and Their Families.** New York: National Aphasia Association, 2004.

**Aphasia inside out: Reflections on communication disability / edited by Susie Parr, Judy Duchan, and Carole Pound.** Maidenhead, England: Open University Press, 2003.

Lyon, Jon G. **Coping with Aphasia**. San Diego: Singular Pub. Group, 1998.

**Talking about Aphasia : Living with Loss of Language After Stroke**. Susie Parr, Sally Byng, and Sue Gilpin ; with Chris Ireland. Buckingham ; Philadelphia : Open University Press, 1997.

### **Videos**

**Communication. Volume 2, How to Communicate with Someone Who has Aphasia**. Healing Arts Communications, 2000. DVD

**The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.**