



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 2 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

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

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

2200 Research Boulevard

Rockville, MD 20850-3289

Phone: 301-296-5700, 301-296-5650 (TTY), 800-498-2071 (Toll-free, members), 800-638-8255 (Toll-free, non-members)

ASHA is the professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 145,000 members and affiliates who are speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists in the United States and internationally. The site has information on various communication disorders for the general public.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: Aphasia

<https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/clinical-topics/aphasia/>

ASHA provides information on aphasia, including symptoms, diagnosis, treatments, in English and Spanish.

Aphasia Hope Foundation

<https://aphasiahope.wpengine.com/>

750 Woodlands Pkwy

Ridgeland, MS 39157

Phone: 913-484-8302

Email: jstrandinger2007@comcast.net

AHF's mission is to promote research into the prevention and cure of aphasia and to ensure all survivors of aphasia and their caregivers are aware of and have access to the best possible treatments available. The site is the largest collaborative online resource for aphasia, with news, resources, and information on, research, therapies, and personal experiences. A Professional of the Month answers questions from users.

MedlinePlus: Aphasia

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

MedlinePlus provides links to resources with information on understanding and coping with aphasia. Section headings include: overviews, latest news, coping, specific conditions, clinical trials, research, and journal articles.

Medscape: Aphasia

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1135944-overview>

This page provides clinical information on aphasia, including diagnosis and treatment.

Merck Manual for Health Care Professionals: Aphasia

http://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/neurologic_disorders/function_and_dysfunction_of_the_cerebral_lobes/aphasia.html?qt=&sc=&alt=

This page has information on aphasia, including types, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.

National Aphasia Association (NAA)

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

PO Box 87

Scarsdale, NY 10583

Toll-free: 800-922-4622

E-mail: naa@aphasia.org

NAA provides educational materials, e-mail newsletters, and advocacy. The organization has community groups throughout the U.S. and Canada.

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/>

National Institutes of Health
31 Center Drive, MSC 2320
Bethesda, MD 20892-2320
Phone: 800-241-1044 (Toll-free), 800-241-1055 (TTY, toll-free)
E-mail: nidcdinfo@nidcd.nih.gov

Part of the National Institutes of Health, NIDCD conducts and supports research and research training in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language. The Institute also conducts and supports research and research training related to disease prevention and health promotion; addresses special biomedical and behavioral problems associated with people who have communication impairments or disorders; and supports efforts to create devices which substitute for lost and impaired sensory and communication function. The Institute makes free publications available, including one on aphasia (English or Spanish).

NIDCD: Aphasia

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

This page has information on aphasia, including causes, types, diagnosis, treatment, and research.

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

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Aphasia-Information-Page>

NINDS provides: a general description of the four categories of aphasia; information on prognosis, treatments, research; and links to other resources.

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