

Aphasia

teacher of university: Kuvaldina Julia

Aphasia

Aphasia is an impairment of language, affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write.

Aphasia is always due to injury to the brain-most commonly from a stroke, particularly in older individuals. But brain injuries resulting in aphasia may also arise from head trauma, from brain tumors, or from infections.

Classification of aphasias

Global Aphasia

Is caused by injuries to multiple language-processing areas of the brain, including those known as Wernicke's and Broca's areas. These brain areas are particularly important for understanding spoken language, accessing vocabulary, using grammar, and producing words and sentences.

Classification of aphasias

Broca's aphasia

Patients have difficulty producing grammatical sentences and their speech is limited mainly to short utterances of less than four words. Producing the right sounds or finding the right words is often a laborious process. Some persons have more difficulty using verbs than using nouns.

Classification of aphasias

Broca's aphasia

A person with Broca's aphasia may understand speech relatively well, particularly when the grammatical structure of the spoken language is simple. However they may have harder times understanding sentences with more complex grammatical construct.

Classification of aphasias

In *Wernicke's aphasia*, the ability to grasp the meaning of spoken words and sentences is impaired, while the ease of producing connected speech is not very affected. Therefore Wernicke's aphasia is also referred to as 'fluent aphasia' or *'receptive aphasia'*.

Classification of aphasias

Mixed non-fluent aphasia applies to persons who have sparse and effortful speech, resembling severe Broca's aphasia. However, unlike individuals with Broca's aphasia, mixed non-fluent aphasia patients remain limited in their comprehension of speech, similar to people with Wernicke's aphasia. Individuals with mixed non-fluent aphasia do not read or write beyond an elementary level.

Classification of aphasias

Anomic aphasia is one of the milder forms of aphasia. The term is applied to persons who are left with a persistent inability to supply the words for the very things they want to talk about, particularly the significant nouns and verbs. Their speech is fluent and grammatically correct but it is full of vague words

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