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Vanderbilt SLP Journal Club:
Prognosis for Aphasia Across the
Continuum of Care

Michael de Riesthal, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Moderated by:
Amy Hansen, MA, CCC-SLP, Managing Editor, SpeechPathology.com



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Vanderbilt SLP Journal Club: Prognosis for Aphasia Across the Continuum of Care

Michael de Riesthal, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

continued™

Learning Objectives

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the critical components of language recovery in the acute, sub-acute and chronic phases of recovery.
- Describe the factors that influence decisions for discharge disposition.
- Describe the variables that may aid the provision of a prognosis for language recovery.

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Before we get started...

How many of you work in:

- acute care?
- skilled nursing facility?
- inpatient rehabilitation?
- outpatient rehabilitation?
- a non-medical setting?

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Objectives

- Purpose of Prognosis
- Patterns of reorganization of language

Kiran S. (2012). What is the nature of poststroke language recovery and reorganization?
ISRN Neurol. 2012:786872 10.5402/2012/786872

- Influence of aphasia on discharge disposition

González-Fernández, M., Christian, A. B., Davis, C., & Hillis, A. E. (2013). Role of aphasia in discharge location after stroke. *Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation*, 94(5), 851-855.

- Prognostic variable method

Plowman, E., Hentz, B., & Ellis, C. (2012). Post-stroke aphasia prognosis: A review of patient-related and stroke-related factors. *Journal of evaluation in clinical practice*, 18(3), 689-694.

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Purpose of Prognosis

To predict the eventual outcome reached by a patient at a specific time, and/or the amount of change a patient will make over a specified period of time.

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Purpose of Prognosis

- Tailor treatment for each individual
- Set realistic goals
- Allocate resources appropriately

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Objectives

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International Scholarly Research Network
ISRN Neurology
Volume 2012, Article ID 786872, 13 pages
doi:10.5402/2012/786872

Review Article

What Is the Nature of Poststroke Language Recovery and Reorganization?

Swathi Kiran^{1,2}

¹ Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Boston University, 635 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, USA

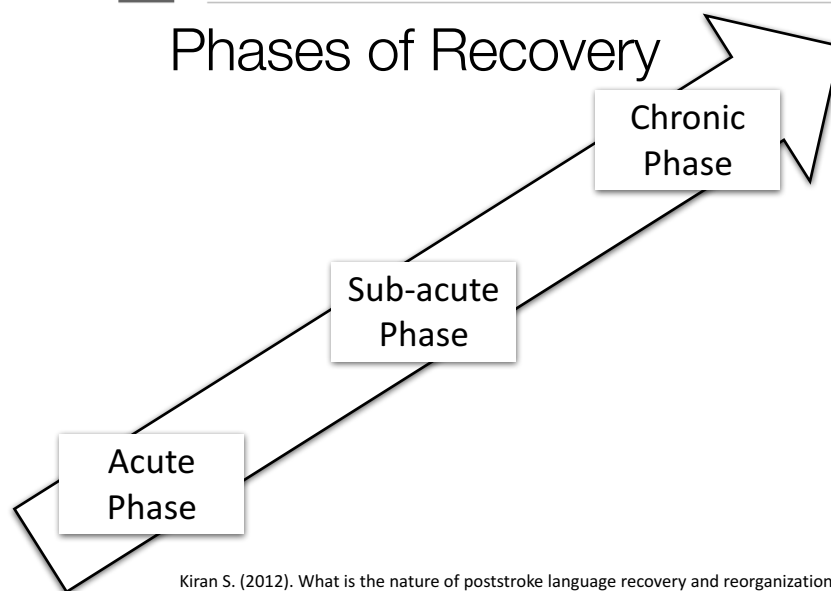
² Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

Three main topics related to poststroke language recovery and reorganization:

1. The nature of anatomical and physiological substrates in the infarcted hemisphere
2. Current neuroimaging evidence for language recovery post-stroke
3. Change in connectivity as a function of recovery post-stroke

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Phases of Recovery

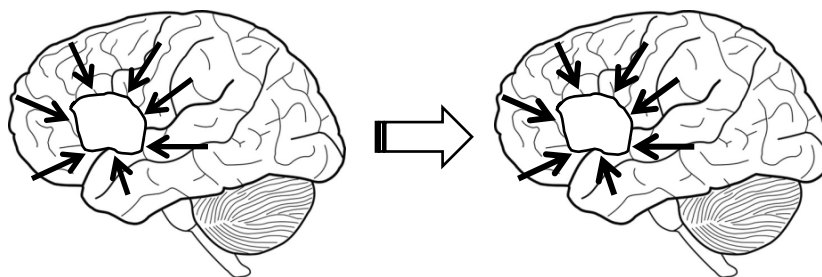


Kiran S. (2012). What is the nature of poststroke language recovery and reorganization?
ISRN Neurol. 2012:786872 10.5402/2012/786872

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Acute Phase of Recovery

- Reperfusion of tissue

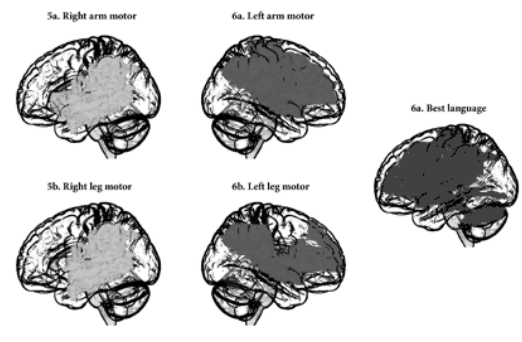


Kiran (2012)

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Prediction Based on Perfusion Abnormality

Figure: Perfusion abnormality on pCT correlation with specific deficit on NIHSS

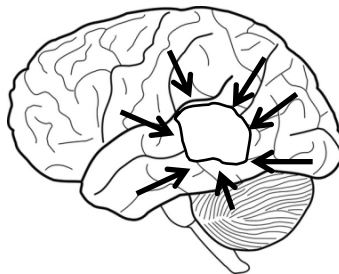


Rorden, Fridriksson, Thors, Hillis, Krebs, Fridriksson, Graham, Hubbard, Hanayik, & Sen, 2015

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Perfusion Abnormality and Language

- Hypoperfusion of specific brain regions, via magnetic resonance perfusion weighted imaging (PWI), is associated with disruption of selective lexical functions

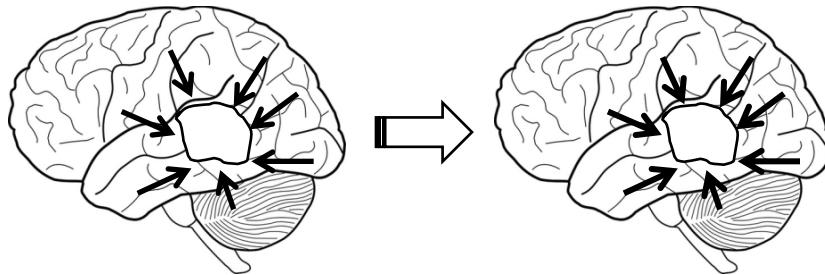


Hillis, Kane, Tuffiash, Ulatowski, Barker, Beauchamp, & Wityk (2001)

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Reperfusion and Language Performance

- Reperfusion of the same regions, in the absence of infarct in that region, would restore the associated lexical function.

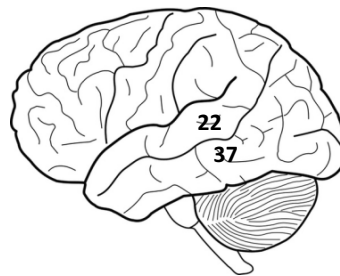


Hillis, Kane, Tuffiash, Ulatowski, Barker, Beauchamp, & Wityk (2001)

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Reperfusion and Language Performance

- 5 patients with poor perfusion, but not infarction, of Brodmann's area 22 (BA 22), and 1 patient with poor perfusion Brodmann's area 37 (BA 37) as well as BA 22



Hillis, Kane, Tuffiash, Ulatowski, Barker, Beauchamp, & Wityk (2001)

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Reperfusion and Language Performance

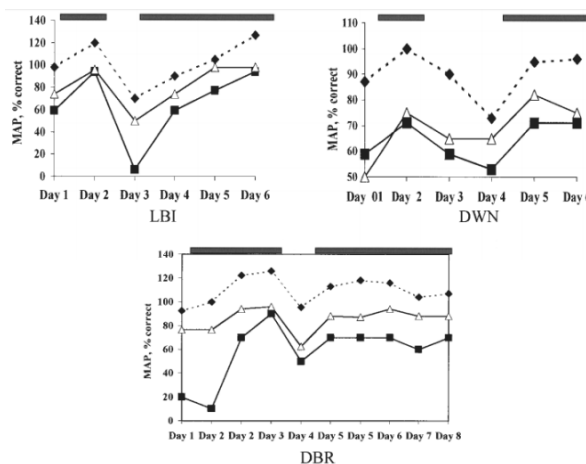
- Each patient was treated with induced blood pressure elevation to increase perfusion of the ischemic and dysfunctional tissue
- Daily testing of naming and comprehension

Hillis, Kane, Tuffiash, Ulatowski, Barker, Beauchamp, & Wityk (2001)

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continued™

Reperfusion and Language Performance



Hillis, Kane, Tuffiash, Ulatowski, Barker, Beauchamp, & Wityk (2001)

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Reperfusion and Language Performance

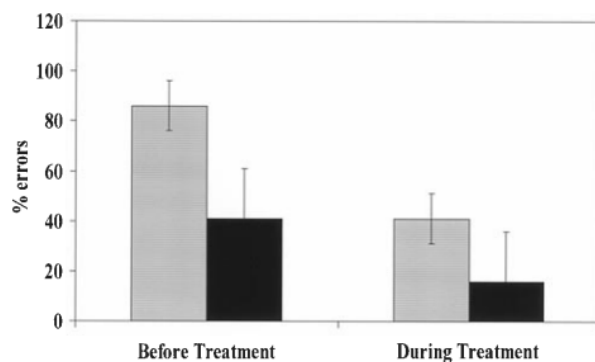


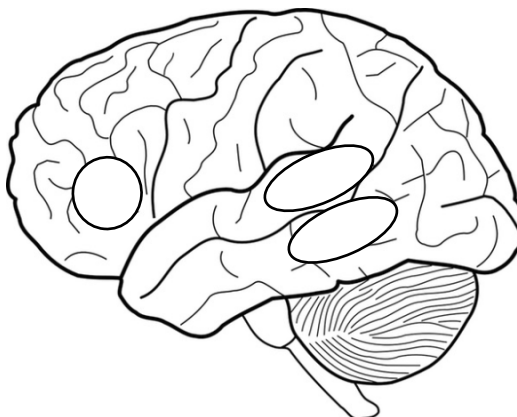
FIG. 5. Mean performance of patients who showed improved lexical-semantics, before and during treatment. Shaded columns represent percentage errors in oral naming; solid columns represent percentage errors in word/picture verification (comprehension).

Hillis, Kane, Tuffiash, Ulatowski, Barker, Beauchamp, & Wityk (2001)

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Reperfusion of ...

- Wernickes area
- MTG, fusiform, Broca's, & Wernickes
- LIFG



Hillis, Barker, Beauchamp et al. (2001)
Davis et al. (2008)

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Take Away

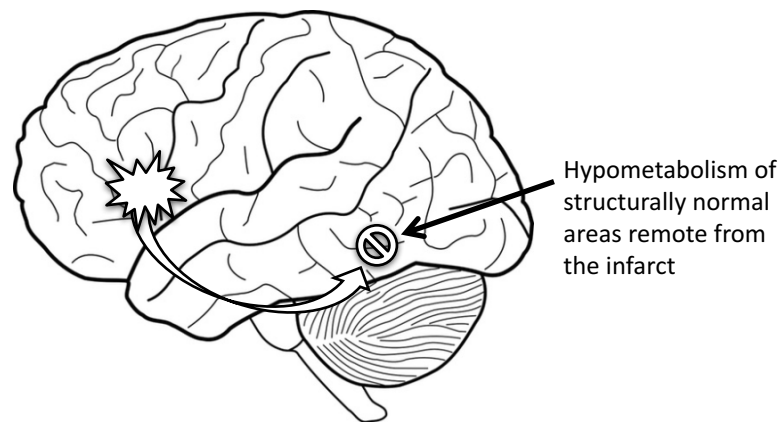
- "...reperfusion of the hypo-perfused area during the acute stages is a critical component of recovery of language and also underscores the importance of these regions in various aspects of language processing in the brain." (p.5)

Kiran (2012)

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Sub-acute Phase of Recovery

- Resolution of diaschisis

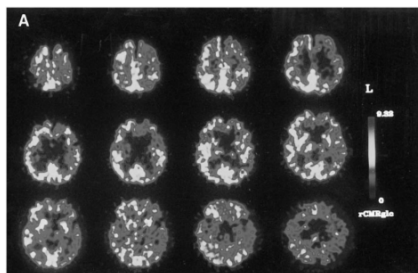


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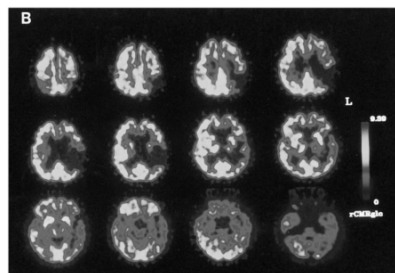
Resolution of Diaschisis

- Cappa et al. (1997)

- 8 patients with aphasia due to unilateral left hemisphere stroke
- Language testing and PET study performed at 2 weeks and 6 months post-stroke



Acute phase (2 weeks):
Widespread hypometabolism

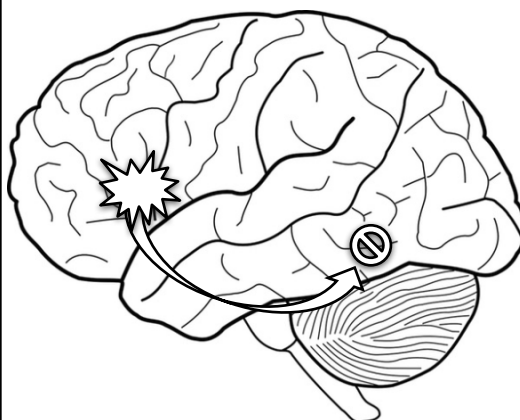


Sub-acute phase (6 months):
Bilateral metabolic recovery
Improved language function

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Resolution of Diaschisis

- Price et al. (2001)



- 4 patients with aphasia (PWA) and lesion in posterior inferior frontal cortex

-Viewed words vs. consonant strings while in a scanner

-In non-neurologically damaged individuals activation occurs in posterior inferior frontal, middle temporal, and posterior inferior temporal cortices

-In PWA, abnormal activation in the damaged inferior frontal cortex AND undamaged inferior temporal cortex

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Take Away

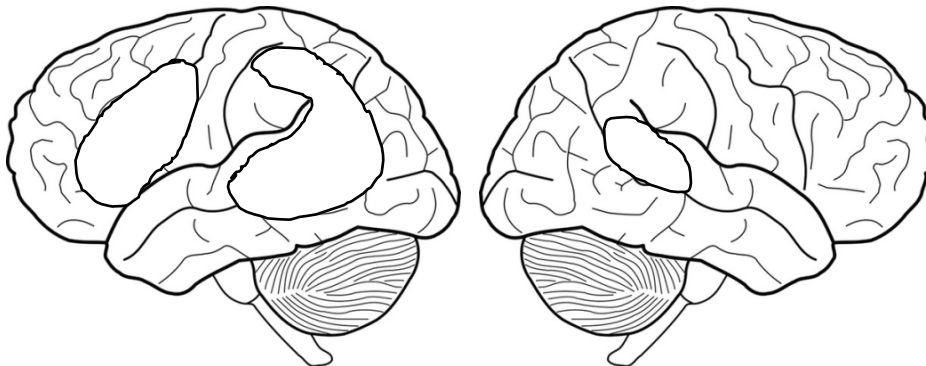
- In the subacute phase, "...recovery of language is dependent on the persistence of hypoperfusion and hypometabolism in regions proximal and distant from the site of lesion. It is likely that the resolution of diaschisis is dependent on the extent of neural plasticity possible in the peri-infarct tissue and the nature and scope of behavioral rehabilitation." (p.6)

Kiran (2012)

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Chronic Phase of Recovery

- Role of the ipsilesional hemisphere



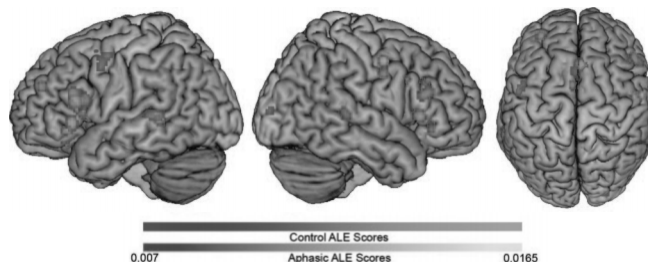
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Ipsilesional Hemisphere

- Turkeltaub et al. (2011)

-Meta-analysis of functional neuroimaging studies using language tasks to examine the neuroplastic changes that occur in recovery from aphasia



- Control participants activated left hemisphere language areas
- PWA activated left hemisphere language areas, new left hemisphere areas, and right hemisphere areas homotopic to left language areas

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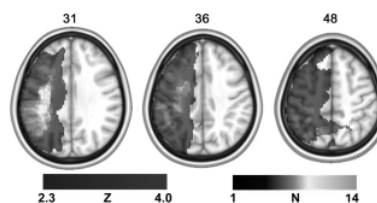
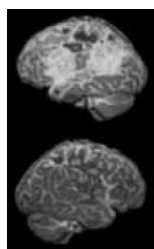
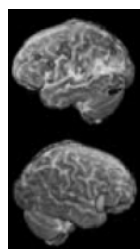
Ipsilesional Hemisphere Activation following treatment

Increased bilaterally

- Fridriksson et al. 2006
- Fridriksson et al. 2007

Increased ipsilaterally

- Fridriksson et al. 2010



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continued™

Take Away

- "...the evolution of studies examining rehabilitation in poststroke aphasia increasingly points towards the principal engagement of perilesional regions in supporting training induced language recovery and is consistent with Turkeltaub et al.'s [59] suggestions about the role of the left IFG and perilesional regions in natural language recovery." (p.7)

Kiran (2012)

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Objectives

- Purpose of Prognosis
- Patterns of reorganization of language

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- Influence of aphasia on discharge disposition

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- Prognostic variable method

Plowman, E., Hentz, B., & Ellis, C. (2012). Post-stroke aphasia prognosis: A review of patient-related and stroke-related factors. *Journal of evaluation in clinical practice*, 18(3), 689-694.

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Questions for the group

- In your experience, does the presence of aphasia influence whether a patient is discharged to inpatient rehab?
- If so, is the decision based on severity of aphasia? That is, individuals with more severe aphasia go to inpatient rehab.

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Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2013 May ; 94(5): 851–855. doi:10.1016/j.apmr.2012.11.042.

Role of Aphasia in Discharge Location After Stroke

Marlís González-Fernández, MD, PhD¹, Asare B. Christian, MD¹, Cameron Davis, MS², and Argye E. Hillis, MD, MA^{1,2,3}

¹Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

²Department of Neurology, Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

³Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

- Examine the relationship between language deficits and discharge to an institutional setting
- Hypothesized that comprehension would be associated with discharge after adjusting for OT and PT needs

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Influence of Aphasia on Discharge Disposition

- 152 subjects who had a clear discharge location (88 - home, 50 – acute rehabilitation unit, 14 - nursing home or other institutional setting)
- Subjects with a diagnosis of stroke or TIA were included in the study

González-Fernández, Christian, Davis, & Hillis, 2013

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Influence of Aphasia on Discharge Disposition

Assessment tasks:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▪ Oral naming of pictures | ▪ Repetition of pseudowords |
| ▪ Written naming of pictures | ▪ Written spelling to dictation |
| ▪ Oral naming with tactile input | ▪ Spoken word-picture verification |
| ▪ Oral reading | ▪ Written word-picture verification |
| ▪ Oral spelling | |

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Influence of Aphasia on Discharge Disposition

Auditory Comprehension:

- Institutional setting: 63.6%
- Home setting: 42.9%

Reading Comprehension and Tactile Naming:

- Institutional setting: 70.7% and 62.9%
- Home setting: 54.0% and 43.6%

González-Fernández, Christian, Davis, & Hillis, 2013

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Prognostic Variable Method

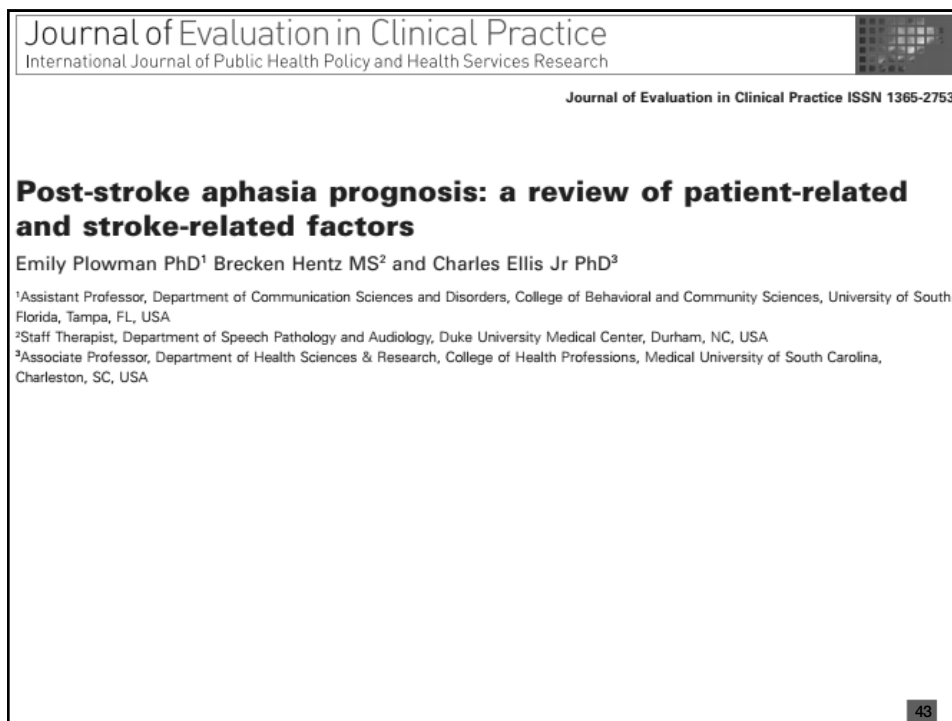
- Use data from biographical, medical, and behavioral variables to infer a patient's potential for a positive outcome or significant amount of change in performance
- Other methods
 - Behavioral profiles
 - Statistical prediction

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Prognostic Variables in Aphasia

- Biographical variables
 - age
 - education
 - premorbid intelligence
 - occupational status
- Behavioral variables
 - severity of aphasia
 - type of aphasia
 - performance on verbal/nonverbal measures
- Medical variables
 - etiology
 - extent of lesion
 - physical condition
 - time post-onset

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continued™

Prognostic Variables

Plowman, Hentz, & Ellis (2012)

- Biographical Variables
 - Gender – no evidence
 - Handedness – no evidence
 - Age – mixed evidence
 - Education/socio-economic status – no evidence
 - Intelligence – mixed evidence
- Medical/Behavioral Variables
 - Initial stroke and aphasia severity*
 - Site/size of lesion*

*** Positive evidence**

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Age

Important indicator

- Eisenson (1949)
- Wepman (1951)
- Vignolo (1964)
- Sands, et al. (1969)
- Marshall, et al. (1982)
- Marshall & Phillips (1983)
- Holland, et al. (1989)
- Laska et al. (2001)

Not important indicator

- Culton (1971)
- Sarno & Levita (1971)
- Keenan & Brassel (1974)
- Kertesz & McCabe (1977)
- Lendrem & Lincoln (1985)
- Wertz & Dronkers (1990)
- Basso (1992)
- Pedersen et al. (2004)
- Inatomi et al. (2008)

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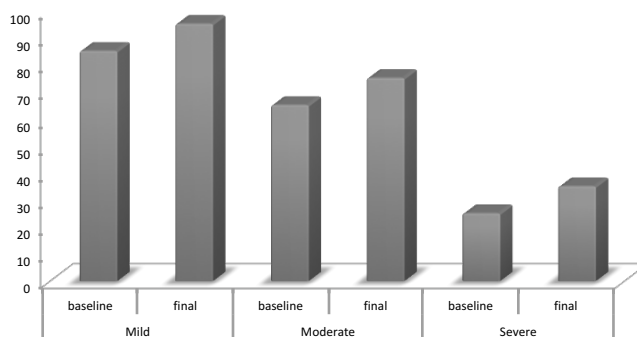
Age

- Wertz & Dronkers (1990)
 - VA Cooperative Study data – highly controlled sample of individuals with aphasia (sensory loss, coexisting medical deficits, etc)
 - When all else is equal, age is not a significant predictor of outcome or amount of change

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Initial Severity of Aphasia

- General belief that individuals with less severe aphasia have potential for a better ultimate outcome.



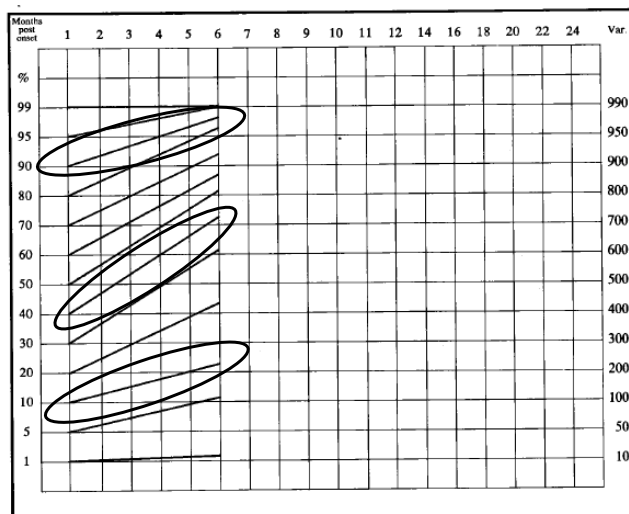
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Initial Severity of Aphasia

- Kertesz & McCabe (1977) caution against inferring that higher outcome levels are synonymous with a larger amount of change.
 - Broca's and Wernicke's aphasic patients often demonstrate the most change
 - Anomic aphasic patients have the better ultimate outcome.

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Porch Index of Communicative Ability HOAP SLOPES



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Language Measures

de Riesthal and Wertz (2004)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outcome at 48 weeks postonset <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Token Test—PICA ▪ PICA—PICA, RFP ▪ Word Fluency—PICA, RFP ▪ Conversation—PICA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change from 4-48 weeks postonset <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Token Test—PICA ▪ PICA—PICA ▪ RFP—RFP ▪ Word Fluency—PICA ▪ Conversation—PICA |
|---|---|

*positively correlated

*negatively correlated

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Site and Size of Lesion

- General consensus that the site and size of lesion that causes aphasia can influence recovery from aphasia

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Site and Size of Lesion

Mohr et al. (1978)

- Lesions to Broca's area alone do not result in persisting Broca's aphasia, only transient mutism is seen at onset, which resolves into a mild speech disorder, dyspraxia. (Baby Broca's)
- Persisting Broca's aphasia results only from extensive lesions in the territory of the upper division of the left MCA. This includes: Broca's area, adjacent prefrontal cortex, anterior parietal regions, the insula, and underlying white matter. (Big Broca's)

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Site and Size of Lesion

Mazzoni et al. (1990)

- Recovery patterns in 45 patients with aphasia
- Smaller lesions – Improvement in auditory comprehension (AC), verbal expression, and written expression.
- Medium size lesions – Improvement in AC and verbal expression
- Large lesions – Improvement in AC

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Site and Size of Lesion

Alexander et al. (1990)

- Lesions in frontal operculum that extend into deep white matter – more severe, persistent non-fluent aphasia

Kertesz et al. (1993)

- Lesions involving supramarginal gyrus, angular gyri, and superior temporal area, but sparing superior and middle temporal gyri – better recovery of auditory comprehension

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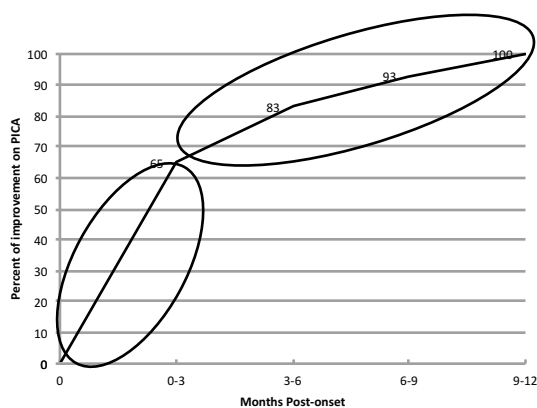
Time Post-onset

- When does spontaneous recovery occur?
 - 2 months (Culton, 1969)
 - 3 months (Lendrem & Lincoln, 1985)
 - 6 months (Basso et al., 1979; Deal & Deal, 1978; Kertesz & McCabe, 1974; Vignolo, 1964)

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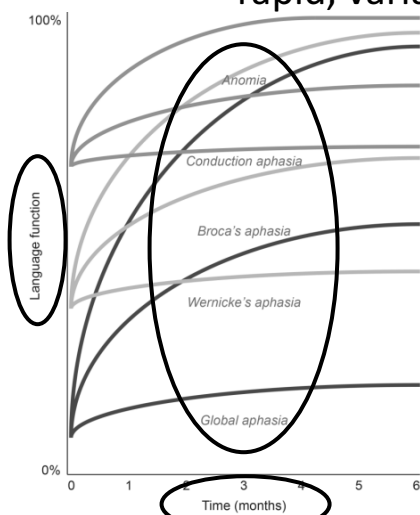
Time Post-onset

- Wertz et al. (1981) report % of total improvement with treatment in 3 month periods
- 0-3 months - 65%
- 3-6 months - 18%
- 6-9 months - 10%
- 9-12 months - 7%



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Recovery from aphasia after stroke is rapid, variable and dynamic



We're still not very good at prognosis
but...

We know medical management
impacts recovery

Biographical, medical, and behavioral
variables are associated with recovery

We can distinguish between

1. Ultimate outcome
2. Amount of change

Wilson 2014

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Review

- Purpose of Prognosis
- Patterns of reorganization of language

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