



NSW Speech Pathology Evidence Based Practice Interest Group

Critically Appraised Paper (CAP)

CLINICAL BOTTOM LINE: Qualitative analysis of repair procedures and an analysis of the CAPP (Conversational Analysis Profile for People with Aphasia) results can provide a basis for individualised advice and shows some potential for examining pre-post intervention between.

Clinical Question [patient/problem, intervention, (comparison), outcome]: Does supported conversation in groups maintain or improve communication skills following a CVA.

Search Terms:

Search Systems:

Citation: Booth, S and Swabey, D. (1999). Group training in communication skills are for carers of adults with aphasia. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*. Vol 34, No. 3, pp 291-309.

Design: Case series design (n=4) with pre and post measures and trial of intervention (ABA design for each case). Heterogeneous group

Participants: Method of obtaining participants was convenience sampling. Four people with chronic aphasia (CA) - only single, left hemisphere CVA: at least 6 months post onset (ex: dementia and sig hearing loss). Four carers/relatives of subjects with aphasia, living at the same address. A description of each participant's dysphasia is provided.

Experimental Group: Pre and post assessment included conversational analysis, collaborative repair analysis, Ax of carer's perception of conversational repair strategies and an overall qualitative analysis. PALPA was used to identify the level of breakdown. Intervention included weekly communication skills group (for 6 weeks duration) for carers focusing on education about conversational repair. CAPP pilot used.

Control Group: Nil

Results: Significant increase in the agreement scores (ie carer accurately identifying communication behaviours) post group. No statistical significant result for decreases in overall severity ratings by carer –possibly too small a sample to detect effect. Significant decrease in number of turns spent on collaborative repair for 2 participants.

Comments on Design: Inter/intra-tester reliability and intra-participant reliability not full established. Number of variables impacting on interpretation of results. Stability of Ca in test and re-test situation need to be established

Level of Evidence (NH&MRC):

**Appraised By: Adult Dysphagia and Speech and Language
GP**

Date: August 2003