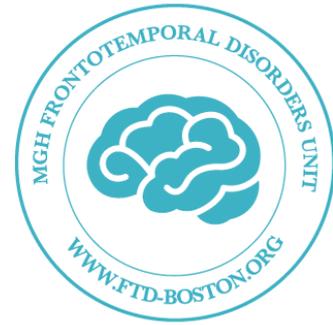


Harmonizing Together:
**Speech and Music Therapy and Support for
Patients and Partners with PPA**
**Massachusetts General Hospital
Frontotemporal Disorders Unit**
Boston, Massachusetts, USA



Sample Patient List of Selected PPA Group Participants

Patient 1:

Diagnosis: mild logopenic PPA

Distance from hospital: 30 minutes

Caregiver support: can attend half the sessions

Individual speech-language tx: currently at MGH

Speech-language impression: Patient has difficulty with comprehension of multi-step spoken directions, confrontation naming of low frequency words, repetition of complex phrases and sentences, reading comprehension of short paragraphs, spelling irregular words, and production and comprehension of complex syntax. Patient has fluent speech with few phonemic paraphasias and spared motor speech.

Patient 2:

Diagnosis: mild semantic PPA

Distance from hospital: 30 minutes

Caregiver support: may miss 2-3 sessions

Individual speech-language tx: a year ago at MGH

Speech-language impression: Patient has impaired confrontation naming and single word comprehension, reduced object knowledge, surface dyslexia, relatively strong repetition, and spared motor speech. Her speech contains vague language and fillers. Her speech-language pathologist used a program called Anki that is a structured flashcard system focused on word retrieval. She uses a notebook with words she tries to relearn for everyday communication. Patient and caregiver are skeptical about the group but want to give it a try.

Patient 3:

Diagnosis: mild semantic PPA

Distance from hospital: 45 minutes

Caregiver support: able to attend all sessions

Individual speech-language tx: no

Speech-language impression: Patient demonstrates poor confrontation naming, impaired single word comprehension, reduced person and object knowledge, and spared repetition and motor speech. Her reading comprehension and production and comprehension of complex syntax are relatively intact. She displays childlike behavior, and her speech contains vague language and fillers.

Patient 4:

Diagnosis: mild-moderate semantic PPA

Distance from hospital: 90 minutes

Caregiver support: able to attend all sessions

Individual speech-language tx: in 2014 at MGH

Speech-language impression: Patient has significant anomia and impaired single word comprehension, with preserved motor speech and relatively preserved repetition. Her reading and writing skills are mildly impaired. Patient reports that she has difficulty remembering the names of familiar people. Her family noted increased social disinhibition and problems with conversational topic maintenance. Over the past six months her abilities have remained relatively stable, with slightly declined performance in word finding and decoding.

Patient 5:

Diagnosis: very mild logopenic PPA

Distance from hospital: 30 minutes

Caregiver support: able to attend half the sessions

Individual speech-language tx: no

Speech-language impression: Patient was given his PPA diagnosis recently and continues to work in downtown Boston. He plans to retire within the next six months. Patient has fluent speech with difficulty in naming low frequency words, comprehending multi step auditory commands, repeating complex phrases, spelling irregular words, and producing complex syntax. Testing indicated intact single word comprehension and spared motor speech. He will be the mildest patient of the group.

Patient 6:

Diagnosis: mild semantic/logopenic PPA

Distance from hospital: 90 minutes

Caregiver support: able to attend five sessions

Individual speech-language tx: no

Speech-language impression: Patient has difficulty with confrontation naming of low and high frequency words, comprehension of complex multi step auditory commands, repetition of complex sentences,

spelling of regular and irregular words, and single word comprehension of low frequency words. Her speech contains phonemic paraphasias, false starts, and filler words.

Patient 7:

Diagnosis: moderate logopenic PPA

Distance from hospital: 20 minutes

Caregiver support: able to attend all sessions

Individual speech-language tx: currently at MGH

Speech-language impression: Patient's spontaneous speech is meaningful but effortful, syntactically simple, and inconsistently fluent with phonemic paraphasias. He displays significant anomia, moderately impaired repetition, and difficulty comprehending syntactically complex spoken language. His written output demonstrates grammatical and spelling errors and omission of functor words. It is notable that his writing is more impaired than his speech. Patient was part of the past PPA group.

Patient 8:

Diagnosis: moderate nonfluent PPA

Distance from hospital: 120 minutes

Caregiver support: able to attend all sessions, three caregivers splitting the sessions

Individual speech-language tx: at a local clinic in the past

Speech-language impression: Patient has difficulty with confrontation naming of low and high frequency words, comprehension of multistep auditory commands, repetition of phrases and simple sentences, production and comprehension of complex syntax, reading comprehension of short paragraphs, and spelling of regular and irregular words. Patient's speech is agrammatic and nonfluent, having dysfluencies in most utterances and phrase length rarely exceeding three to four words. Daughter reports progression since the last time I saw the patient. She will be the most severe patient of the group.

Based on observation of patient 7 and 8, it is concluded that the group dynamic benefits from selecting patients with similar PPA severities.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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