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Better Conversations
with primary progressive aphasia

**Communication Partner
Training in PPA**

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**National Institute for
Health Research**

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dementia

Article

Speech and language therapy for primary progressive aphasia: Referral patterns and barriers to service provision across the UK

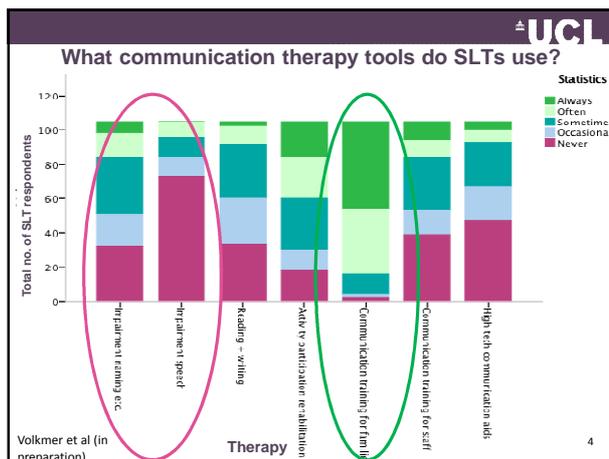
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Conversations: Barriers in PPA

Person with PPA	Conversation partner
Reduced topic initiation	Correcting their partners errors all the time
Not recognising when conversation goes wrong	Creating 'learning events' or using 'test questions'- asking questions which both people in the conversation know the answer to but may not currently have the language.
Increased pause lengths	
Lots more false starts and hesitations	
Inappropriate changes of topic	Perception of communication behaviours as being 'on purpose'
Reduced awareness of the listener	Speaking on behalf of the person with PPA.

Summarised from Volkmer, A. Chapter 6 Therapy and management: conversation partners in Volkmer, A. (2013) Assessment and Therapy for Language and Cognitive/Communication Difficulties in Dementia and Other Progressive Diseases. J&J Press, UK.

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Conversations: Impact of barriers

The following quotes are from the relatives of people with PPA describing **barriers** in conversation:

We had a occasion on our last trip, when the waiting staff **thought her lack of response was rudeness**. This, got around. Fortunately, one waiter, came up, spoke quietly to us. He said, I know what the problem is, un I said yes, and everybody suddenly became understanding. Because, she can't define the menu for herself.

James, husband of Gwen

When I am there **she asks him "what were we doing today?" "What did you have for your lunch?"** Now, he knows what he did and he knows what he had for his lunch, so I can see he is becoming a bit upset and **frustrated** by these questions. I just try to distract him from that and to try and make him laugh to cheer him up. The staff mean well, and they are trying to draw out something from him, but it's not functional communication. It's just putting pressure on him

Clair, sister of John talking about the staff at the respite centre he attends

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Conversations: Impact of facilitators

The following quotes are from people with PPA describing the **facilitators** in conversation:

An she said which one do you want? I said I don't know and **she put them all out** and I said that's it.

Christine, describing an interaction with a shop assistant where she is trying to buy macarons

I've had a thing, when you were talking and telling what you were doing, I think I started doing what I am doing now. Um, I, I was saying, um, saying, perhaps in the kitchen, (pointing), this way round. Um, and, er...where's the **(makes a tap turning motion)** thing?

Bob, describing how he uses gesture in conversation

And, uh, an sometimes I will know, there's three of them about you know, talking to me, talking, then that's very nice. An I say, **right ok... what is that word please?**

Jennifer, describing successful strategies she uses in a conversation with her children

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Steering Group Meetings

Better Conversations
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BCPPA program

Session 1: What is conversation?

Session 2: Analysis of videos of own conversations and goal setting

Session 3: Strategy Practice

Session 4: Problem solving and future planning

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BCPPA program

1.
Individualized

Session 2: Analysis of videos of own conversations and goal setting

Session 3: Strategy Practice

Session 4: Problem solving and future planning

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2. Refining strategies already in use

Session 1: What is conversation?

Session 2: Analysis of videos of own conversations and goal setting

Session 3: Strategy Practice

Session 4: Problem solving and future planning

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BCPPA program

3. Including PwPPA & partner

Session 1: What is conversation?

Session 2: Video analysis and goal setting

Session 3: Strategy Practice

Session 4: Problem solving and future planning

BCP

Module 5.0 Session 4 Home based task 6

Ideas for the future:

WHAT YOU USE	What might be useful in the future?
Gestures	
Giving time	
Checking	
Reducing distractions	
Shorter sentences	
Writing on wing	

Session 1: What is conversation?

4. Session plans and handouts

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Anna Volkmer

COURSES

5. Sharing knowledge across the discipline

Better Conversations with Primary Progressive Aphasia

Progress: 3/19 34%

Beeke, S., Sirman, N., Beckley, F., Maxim, J., Edwards, S., Swinburn, K. & Best, W. (2013). <https://extend.ucl.ac.uk/>

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Identifying barriers and facilitators in conversation with people with PPA

Which ones:

- help the most
- appear frequently
- cause distress
- look like teacher-pupil talk
- disrupt the flow of conversation

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- INSERT VIDEO CLIP of a barrier - 38 second video clip

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- Insert video clip of a facilitator – 2 min video clip

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Volkmer et al. *Pilot and Feasibility Studies* (2018) 4:158
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13075-018-0249-6>

Pilot and Feasibility Studies

STUDY PROTOCOL Open Access



The 'Better Conversations with Primary Progressive Aphasia (BCPPA)' program for people with PPA (Primary Progressive Aphasia): protocol for a randomised controlled pilot study

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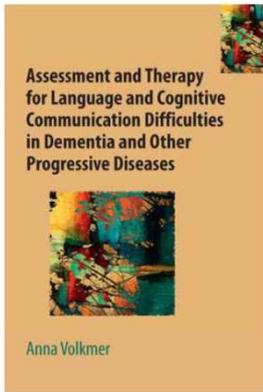
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Watch this space!



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