Beyond the Test Battery & Treatment Workbooks

Balancing the Who, What, Where, and How of Adult Language Evaluation and Treatment
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Learning Outcomes

- Describe the differences in assessments and treatment of adult language disorders across a variety of settings.
- Identify assessment and treatment options for adult language disorders appropriate for various types of clinical settings in order to maximize our limited time with patients.
- Develop strategies for maximizing functional activities with multi-modality treatment applications for adults with language disorders.

Who do we consider when choosing assessments?

- Patients
- Families
- Physicians
- Insurance companies
- Ourselves

Common Language Assessments

- Western Aphasia Battery Revised (WAB-R)
- Aphasia Language Performance Scale (ALP)
- Burns Brief Inventory of Communication & Cognition
- Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination (BDAE)
- Mount Wilga High Level Screening Test
- Ross Information Processing Assessment 2
- Assessment Battery of Communication Disorders of Dementia
- ASHA NOMS
- Boston Assessment of Severe Aphasia (BASA)

Pros and Cons of Comprehensive Language Batteries in Aphasia Assessment

PROS	CONS
Language and cognitive skills examined in aphasia batteries support a range of functional behaviors.	Potentially important aspects of language and communication are not adequately assessed (Simmons-Mackie, 2001).
Assist in identifying the individuals retained abilities.	Provide a measure of language impairment rather than communication activities of daily living (e.g. conversation).
Assist in determining: nature of problem, severity, resources that may be used in therapy and potential for recovery.	Lengthy and timely
May be useful for less experienced clinicians whose observations and hypothesis-testing skills may not be fully developed.	Time taken may be better used in observation of the individual person with aphasia and hypothesis driven administration of selective assessments (such as subtests of the PALPA) (Nickels, 2005).

Provides a summary of the person's profile.	Do not provide a clear description of the underlying nature of the language disorder.
May highlight difficulties that had been overlooked or underestimated.	

Realistic Treatment Considerations in All Settings

- How much time will I have with the patient before discharge?
- What are the immediate needs of the patient/caregiver?
- Insurance limitations
- Caseload demands/productivity
- Material availability and accessibility
- What is my comfort zone?
- Am I doing this because this is what I've always done for this type of patient?

Functional Therapy

- Functional looks different in each setting.
- Goals are different based on the needs of the patient
- Let the assessment show you not only what is deficient, but what is also a strength
- Functional usually means not in a therapy book or preset program, although these are sometimes necessary at the base level of treatment.

Treatment Choices:

- There is a time and place for high structure and worksheets
- Generalization happens quicker with functional tasks
    - Incorporate hobbies, activities of interest
    - Use real world, daily life activities to make the patient and family invest in therapy and carry over to non-therapy times
- Social Media
- Apps
- Websites

When using Apps for therapy:

- What do I want this app to do?
- Is it easy to use?
- Is it suitable for me/my clients?
- App basics
    - Free or Lite version for trials
    - Wifi required/not
    - Privacy concerns, data sharing
    - ads, pop-up boxes
- What do other people think?
- tactustherapy.com/resources