

The Efficacy of Functional Communication Therapy  
for Chronic Aphasic Patients  
(Abstract)

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Nine aphasic patients who averaged 106 months post-aphasia onset were administered group functional communication therapy, the aim of which was to improve communicative function in areas sampled by Holland's Communicative Abilities of Daily Living Test. All patients were nonfluent in type and had received extensive individual treatment but were failing to show recent improvement on the Porch Index of Communicative Abilities Test and/or the Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination. Therapy was administered on a twice-weekly basis for one hour over the 12 weeks duration of the study. Pretreatment PICA scores for eight of the patients revealed a mean PICA Overall Percentile of 54.0. Post-treatment mean PICA Overall scores for seven of these subjects was 52.8, a nonsignificant change. In contrast the pretreatment mean CADL scores were 93.3 as compared to the significantly higher mean score of 107.3 post-treatment. The six-week interim CADL mean scores were also significantly higher at 103.3. Mean CADL scores obtained six weeks after treatment withdrawal remained relatively stable at 106.5. The one patient who was administered the Boston Test pre-post treatment showed no significant improvement in scores. The results are interpreted in favor of using tests which assess functional communication such as the CADL with chronic aphasic patients, and are supportive of functional communication focused therapy despite lack of demonstrable improvement on traditional language tests.