

Language Therapy and Aphasia:
Improvement and Recovery
(Abstract)

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This study was designed to determine the effects of different types of language treatment on recovery from aphasia. In general, the effects of providing a form of treatment were beneficial; patients who received treatment made significantly greater gains than those who received no treatment. For individual types of therapy, language-oriented (LOT) and stimulation-facilitation (SFT) were significantly better than no treatment, while the effects of stimulation therapy delivered by nonspeech-language pathologists (UNSY) approached significance. Differences between individual treatment types were not significant and conclusions recommending a treatment of choice could not be made. Given that treatment is provided, we still do not know which type of treatment is most effective.

Treatment was not a significant variable in the eventual level of patients' auditory comprehension (ACTS). Although subjects' comprehension scores did improve, the amount of improvement was not significantly greater in treated patients than in those receiving no treatment. Gender and educational level did not appear to be related to language outcome, although younger age might have a positive influence.

Our results support previous reports of positive benefits for treated aphasic patients. However, there is a need to replicate our findings because of our small sample size and our mildly impaired control group.