

International Conference on

Speech Language Pathology

May 22-23, 2017 Las Vegas, USA

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Synergistic interventions for aphasia and cognitive language deficits in cerebral vascular disease

Speech Language Pathologists receive professional training in the use of techniques and strategies to improve communication for patients who present with a variety of aphasias and cognitive deficits after a Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA). These deficits consist of receptive and expressive aphasia, dysarthria, oral apraxia or verbal apraxia. Cognitive language deficits may present as well, after a single neurological episode. However they are more common after the patient has suffered several CVA's. Once called multi infarct dementia, now referred to as vascular dementia. SLP's typically use speech & language cognitive techniques based upon evidence based practices to improve the patient's level of functioning. New developments in the field of neurobiology suggest that a synergistic approach involving a variety of complimentary interventions may be the most effective overall approach to addressing cognitive dysfunctions. This paper will discuss the potential benefits of adding other components to the traditional speech-language cognitive therapy. The effects and advantages of a synergistic approach involving enhanced nutrition, physical activity, meditation and music on the brain and the use of brain stimulation exercises and computer games will be explained and discussed. The audience will complete the course with a better understanding of other variables and protocols that can have a positive and possibly greater and more enduring effect on brain rehabilitation when paired with speech and language interventions.

Biography

Cynthia Constance Cee Cee Brewster has worked in the field of speech language pathology for well over 27 years. She has a BS in Speech Language Pathology from Illinois State University and MS in Speech Language Pathology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. She has a background in adult neurological disorders specializing in the areas of swallowing disorders, cognitive language disorders and use of augmentative communication devices with stroke patients. Her work as a traveling Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) has allowed her to work in many areas of the country and in a variety of clinical settings: Acute, outpatient, day rehabilitation, acute rehabilitation, skilled nursing and home health. She has served as an Adjunct Faculty and as a Clinical Supervisor. She has also served the Huntsville Community in providing speech services to the Mentees of the 100 Black Men of America-Huntsville Chapter, participated in local health fairs as well as lectures to educate the public regarding speech and language disorders through the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Rho Chi Omega Chapter as a Member. She has been employed with Integra Rehabilitation as a Regional Traveler for more than 4 years in Greensboro, Georgia

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