

Objectives and Program Schedule

MedBridge Education

Primary Progressive Apraxia of Speech: Differential Diagnosis, Neurologic Underpinnings, and Management

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Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Define and describe the clinical features of apraxia of speech as it occurs in neurodegenerative disease, emphasizing its occurrence as the primary manifestation of neurodegenerative disease (primary progressive apraxia of speech, or PPAOS)
2. Discuss the relationship between PPAOS and classifications of primary progressive aphasia, as well as other neurologic signs and symptoms that eventually emerge in people with PPAOS
3. Review neuroimaging and autopsy findings regarding localization and the underlying pathologies associated with PPAOS
4. Discuss basic principles of management and therapy

Chapter 1: Definitions, Description, Disease Course, and Associated Problems

Apraxia of speech (AOS) can occur as a prominent and sometimes primary or only manifestation of neurodegenerative disease. Join Dr. Joseph Duffy as he uses an illustrative case example to describe the clinical features of primary progressive apraxia of speech (PPAOS) from the time of onset to the patient's death nearly ten years later. Dr. Duffy also discusses primary progressive aphasia (PPA), its variants, and the relationship of each PPA subtype to PPAOS.

Chapter 2: Brief Case Examples

Through the presentation of four patient case examples, Dr. Duffy illustrates the history and presentation of PPAOS and progressive AOS accompanied by aphasia. Speech characteristics that justify the diagnosis of AOS are highlighted in the presented examples.

Chapter 3: Neuroimaging Correlates and Underlying Pathology

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) scans of the brain reveal differences between PPAOS and PPA. Autopsy findings allow for further analysis of underlying pathology and histochemistry of PPAOS and PPA. In this course, Dr. Duffy highlights the importance of the clinical diagnostic distinction between these diagnoses relative to prediction of underlying pathology.

Chapter 4: Management Issues

With limited data supporting treatment effectiveness for PAOS/PPOAS, clinicians largely rely on management and therapies for apraxia of speech and neurodegenerative communication disorders in general. Staging and counseling emerge as important components in the management of PPAOS.

Chapter 5: Summary of Main Take Home Points

Progressive apraxia of speech exists and may be more common than the literature suggests. When presented as the primary or only feature of neurodegenerative disease, this condition is known as PPAOS. Neuroimaging findings reflect left hemisphere and frontal lobe abnormalities with these speech disorders, which have been found to respond best to counseling and staging of therapy.

Chapter 6: Q&A

Dr. Duffy concludes this course by answering questions about apraxia of speech disorders from a speech and hearing sciences doctoral candidate.