

The SLP's Role in Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)

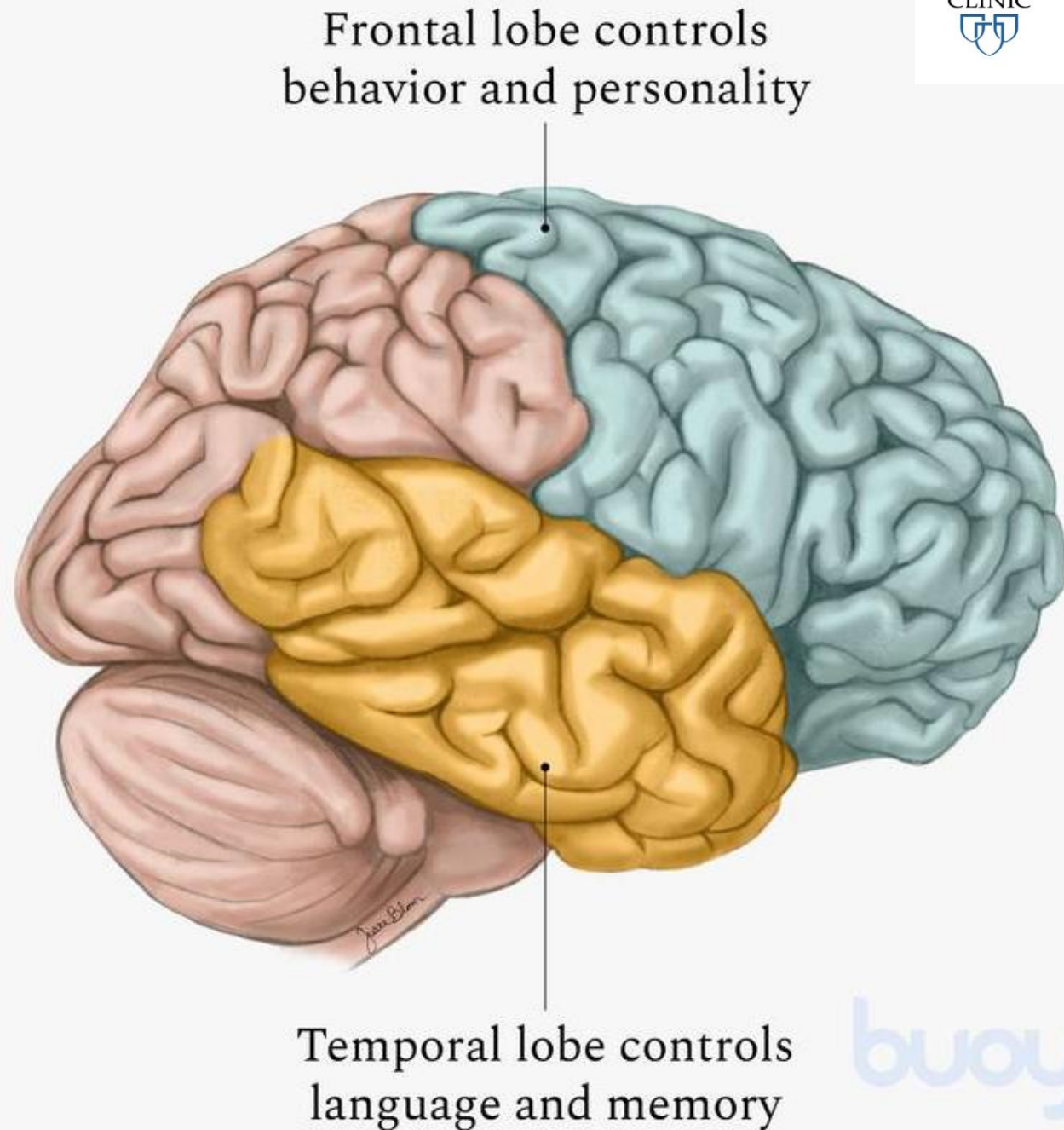
Supporting patients through the
progression

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Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)

Frontotemporal dementia is a progressive neurological disorder affecting the neurons located in the frontal and temporal lobes of the cerebral cortex.

It is estimated that 60% of individuals with frontotemporal dementia are ages 45-65.



FTD stands for...

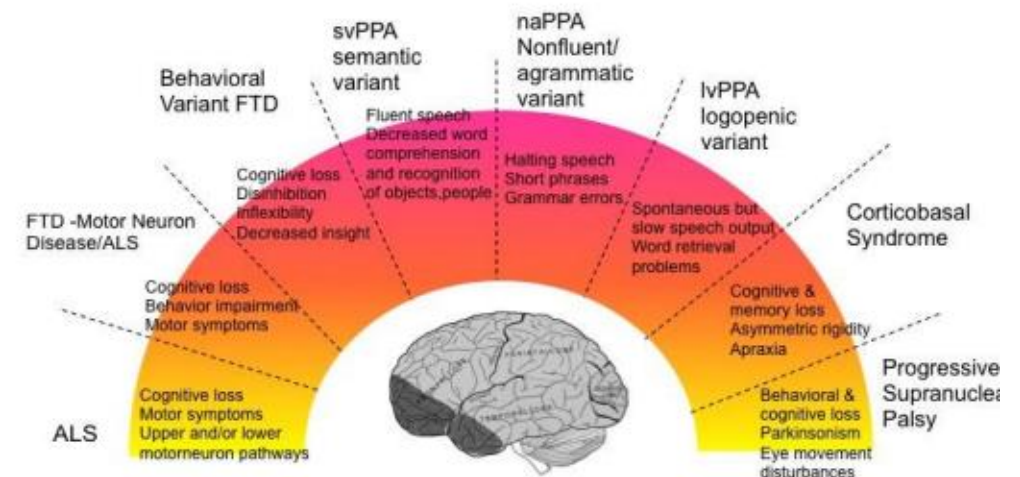
Frontotemporal dementia

Frontotemporal disorder

Frontotemporal lobar degeneration

Frontotemporal Degeneration: Spectrum

- Behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD)
- Primary progressive aphasia
- Motor disorders

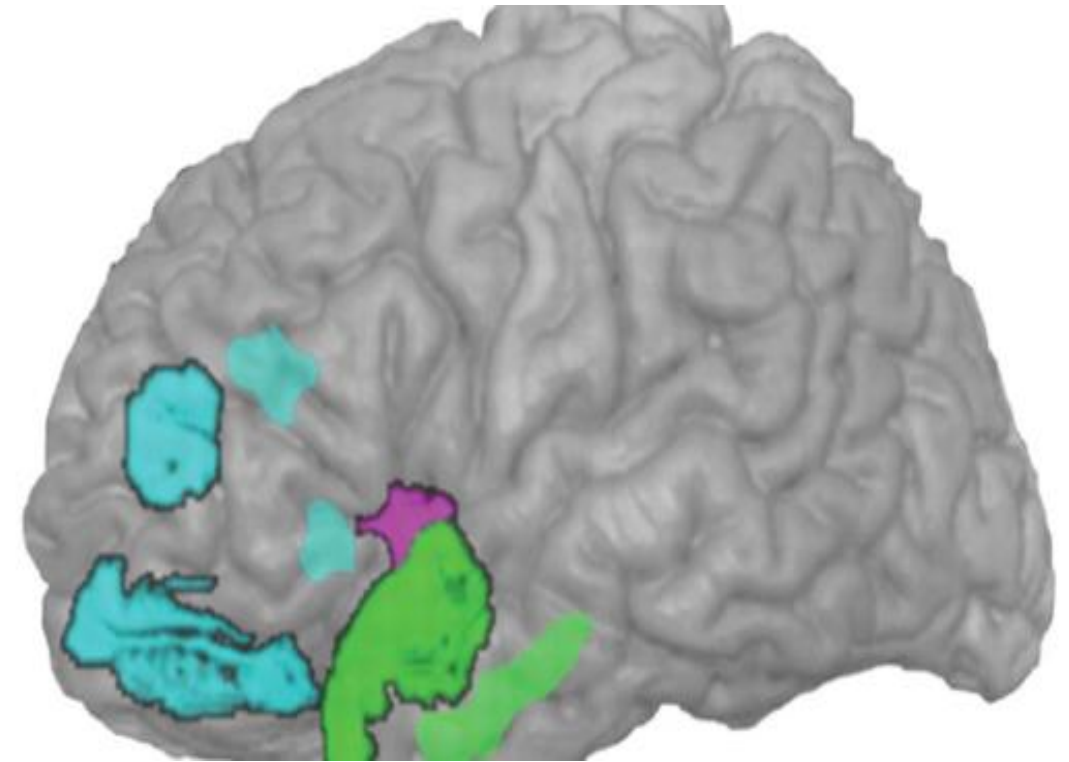


(Tatton, n.d.)

Behavioral Variant

Behavioral variant is the most common

- Symptoms include:
 - Impaired planning and sequencing
 - Impaired prioritization
 - Perseverative behaviors
 - Impulsivity
 - Disengaged / apathetic
 - Language/movement impairments in later stages

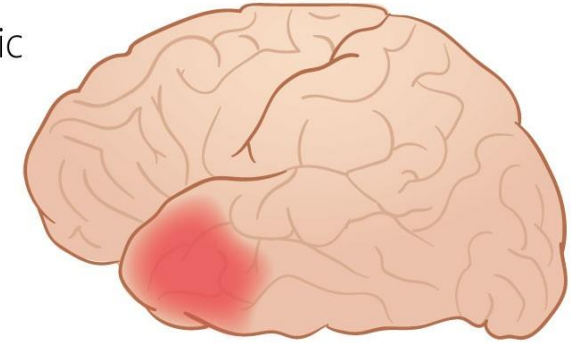


Primary Progressive Aphasia

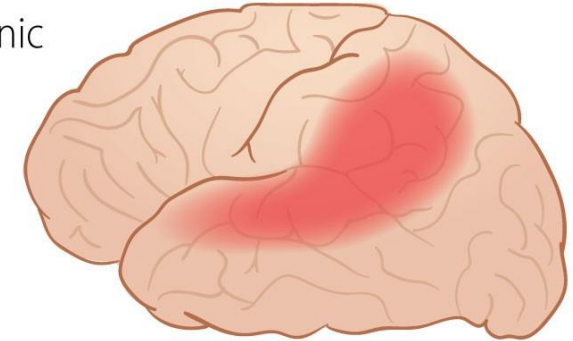
PPA is a symptom of FTD that affects the individual's ability to communicate. There are 3 subtypes:

- Semantic variant PPA (svPPA)
- Logopenic variant PPA (lvPPA)
- Non-fluent / agrammatic variant PPA (nfv PPA)

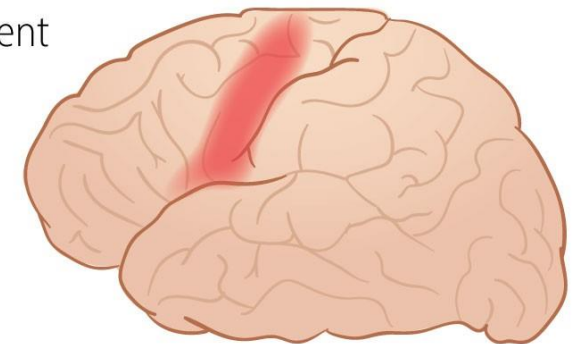
Semantic



Logopenic



Non-fluent



Motor Disorders

- Corticobasal syndrome
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Frontotemporal dementia with parkinsonism
- Frontotemporal dementia with ALS



Logopenic PPA

Location: left tempo-parietal regions

Key symptoms

- Key symptoms of Logopenic PPA are
 - Poor naming: confrontational naming and word finding in spontaneous speech tasks
 - Speech is characterized as slow due to the impaired word finding without apparent agrammatism
 - Impaired sentence repetition
 - Due to an underlying impairment in “phonologic short-term memory”
 - Phonological errors / phonemic paraphasias
 - Motor speech = WNL

Nonfluent / Agrammatic PPA

Location: left posterior frontal and insular regions

Key symptoms

- Agrammatism
- Nonfluent speech
- Inconsistent errors are also common including distorted sounds, substitutions, additions, etc.
- Comprehension for single words is in-tact, but a breakdown occurs with more complex language structures

Semantic PPA

Location: left anterior temporal lobe

Key symptoms

- Impaired confrontational naming
- Impaired comprehension of single words
- Surface dyslexia/dysgraphia
- Normal repetition of phrases/sentences
- Grammar and motor speech WNL

	Logopenic Variant	Non-fluent Variant	Semantic Variant
Naming	Impaired, phonemic errors	Spared	Impaired
Motor speech	Spared	Effortful & halting with inconsistent errors	Spared
Repetition	Impaired for phrases/sentences	Spared	Spared
Comprehension	Impaired for longer items due to impaired phonological memory	Impaired for more complex structures	Impaired for single-words
Grammar / syntax	Spared – without frank agrammatism	Impaired: Agrammatism	Spared
Reading writing	Impaired; phonologic errors	Impaired: Agrammatism	Surface dyslexia / dysgraphia
Object knowledge	Spared	Spared	Impaired

PPA Assessment

- Motor speech production
- Naming/word finding
- Grammar / syntax
- Repetition
- Auditory comprehension (single words, syntax / commands)
- Reading
- Writing



PPA Treatment

- Traditional Aphasia Treatment
- Patient centered
- Counseling
- Nuances (ie, SLP approach)
- It takes a village



Resources

- **PPA support group at Mayo Clinic**
 - Virtual support group for individuals with PPA and their caregivers.
 - Second Thursday of each month from 12:00 – 1:30.
 - Email shore.katherine@mayo.edu
- **University of Arizona: PPA Support Group**
 - **Contact:** Janet Hawley M.S., CCC-SLP (520) 626-6073 or Gil Perona (520) 621-7070
 - <https://www.aphasia.org/site/university-of-arizona-aphasia-clinic-group/>
- **The Association for Frontotemporal Dementia: patient educational resources (e.g., definitions, ID cards)**
 - <https://www.theaftd.org/>

Resources continued

- **Banner University**

- Virtual support group for individuals with PPA and their caregivers.
- Frontotemporal (FTD) Dementia Support Group 2nd Tuesday, 12:30-2pm
- Who: Care partners of persons with FTD, Primary Progressive Aphasia or strokes in the frontal lobe
- Contact [baifcs@ bannerhealth.com](mailto:baifcs@bannerhealth.com) or 602.839.6918 for Zoom link information.
- <https://www.bannerhealth.com/services/alzheimers/for-caregivers/resources-for-caregivers/alzheimers-support-groups>

FTD Support groups: Facebook

- Frontotemporal dementia info and support
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ftdinfoandsupport/>
- The association for frontotemporal dementia (AFTD)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52543721114/>
- Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) 101
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/402753526871483/>
- FTD Survivors, the next chapter (for caregivers, spouses, parents, children, friends of those diagnosed)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1769012046650788/>

Patient with PPA: ID card

**Please be patient with my attempts
to speak clearly. Thank you.**

I have a brain disease called primary progressive aphasia.



theaftd.org | HelpLine: 1.866.507.7222 | info@theaftd.org

**Please be patient with my
companion's efforts to speak.**

He/She has a brain disease called primary progressive aphasia, which makes it challenging to communicate.

Thank you for your understanding.

Personalized ID CARDS

I have **Primary Progressive Aphasia**

This is a medical condition and type of dementia that makes communicating difficult for me.

Sometimes I have difficulty understanding what others are saying to me

My intelligence is in tact.

Please be patient with me as I need a few extra moments to “find” the correct words in my brain.

I am not mentally unstable or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

To help me communicate, please:

- Be patient
- Give me extra time
- Speak slowly
- Use short and simple sentences
- Ask yes / no questions

Emergency Contact:

- Name _____
- Phone Number ____

Home

- Address ____