

By The Greater Cincinnati Stroke Consortium

# Aphasia & Apraxia Identification Program



# Aphasia

- Language disorder caused by damage to the language centers in the brain (usually the left hemisphere)
- Impairs language skills: speaking, understanding, reading, and writing



# Aphasia vs Dysarthria

- Aphasia

- A brain **cortex** problem
- Damage to the dominant hemisphere of the brain
- Not by direct cranial nerve damage

- Dysarthria

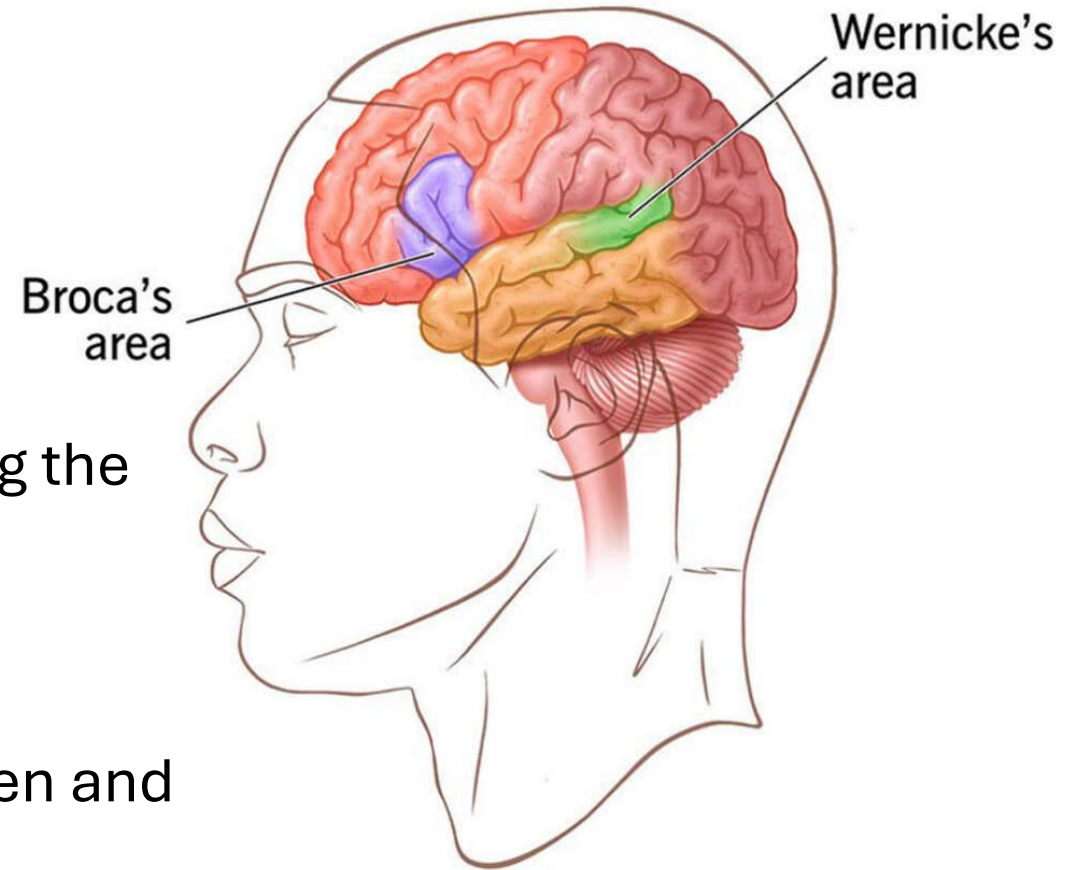
- Cranial nerve & motor problem
- Trigeminal nerve – V
- Facial nerve – VII
- Glossopharyngeal nerve – IX
- Vagus nerve - X

*“sometimes confusing”*

# Aphasia

- **Symptoms:**

- **Expressive** - Difficulty speaking or finding the words
- Mixing up words or sentences
- Broca's portion of the brain
- **Receptive** - Trouble understanding spoken and written language
- Problems with reading and writing
- Reading and writing challenges
- May affect both comprehension and expression
- Wernicke's portion of the brain



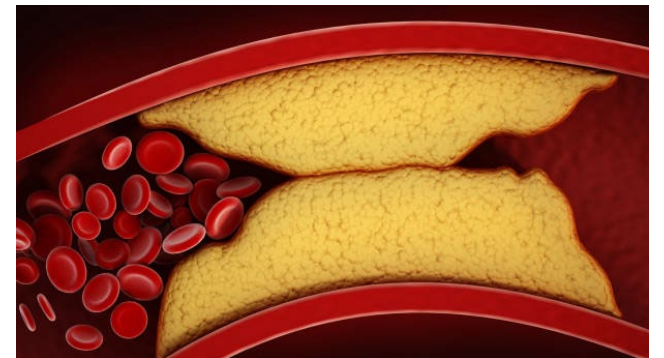
# How Does Aphasia Happen?

- **Causes:**

- Stroke (most common)
- Traumatic brain injury
- Brain tumors
- Neurodegenerative diseases (example: dementia)
- Infections affecting the brain

- **Mechanism:**

- Blood flow interruption



# What is Apraxia?

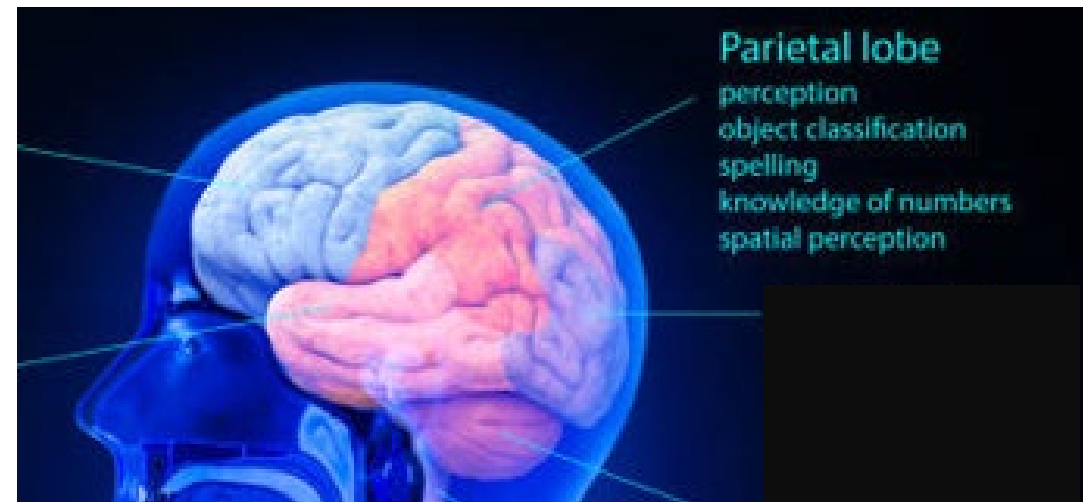
- A motor speech disorder
- Brain has trouble planning movements needed for speech
- Muscles are not weak, but coordination is impaired



# What is Apraxia?

- **Symptoms:**

- Inconsistent speech errors
- Difficulty pronouncing words correctly
- Groping movements of the mouth while speaking
- Better ability to say automatic phrases than voluntary speech
- May speak slowly with effort
- Primarily affects the left parietal lobe



# How Does Apraxia Happen?

- **Causes:**

- Stroke
- Traumatic brain injury
- Tumors or lesions in the brain
- Neurodegenerative diseases
- Can also be developmental (childhood apraxia of speech)

- **Mechanism:**

- Damage to the parietal lobe resulting in motor problems

# REMEMBER

- **It is not the intellect that is affected!**
- But rather their ability to express themselves effectively.



# Identification Program

- **The Greater Cincinnati Stroke Consortium** is sponsoring an Identification Program to assist with people experiencing aphasia and/or apraxia



I have Aphasia (language impairment) and Apraxia (motor speech impairment) due to a stroke. This does not affect my intellect. Aphasia affects my spoken language (expression), and my understanding (comprehension). Apraxia affects my ability to get words out clearly. This also affects some of my reading and writing abilities. Please turn over for some strategies to communicate with me.

- Give me time to communicate.
- If I say something that doesn't sound quite right, let me try to correct myself.
- Give me choices if needed.
- Ask me if I understand.
- If I don't seem to understand, rephrase the questions and/or repeat.
- Talk to ME. If I still need help, it's okay to ask my family

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# Greater Cincinnati Stroke Consortium

Hello,

We realize that you have experienced a neurological event and it may be difficult for you to communicate or understand information that is presented to you.

The Greater Cincinnati Stroke Consortium is sponsoring an Identification Program to assist you with your aphasia and/or apraxia.

If you experience a challenging time with your communication, we are hopeful this plastic card will support you.

If you are interested in receiving an Aphasia Information Wallet Card and Decal for your car window, please complete the following information:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Person recommending you for this information: \_\_\_\_\_

Scan and email this completed letter to the following email address:  
[gcsstroke@gmail.com](mailto:gcsstroke@gmail.com)

Mail the completed letter to the following address:  
Greater Cincinnati Stroke Consortium (G.C.S.C.)  
c/o Betty Jackson



123 Buttermilk Pike  
PO Box 176112  
Lakeside Park, KY 41017

Please allow 30 days to receive the Information Card and Car Decal. It will be mailed to the address provided on this form.

### Front of the card

I have Aphasia (language impairment) and Apraxia (motor speech impairment) due to a stroke. This does not affect my intellect. Aphasia affects my spoken language (expression), and my understanding (comprehension). Apraxia affects my ability to get words out clearly. This also affects some of my reading and writing abilities. Please turn over for some strategies to communicate with me.

### Back of the card

- Give me time to communicate.
- If I say something that doesn't sound quite right, let me try to correct myself.
- Give me choices if needed.
- Ask me if I understand.
- If I don't seem to understand, rephrase the questions and/or repeat.
- Talk to ME. If I still need help, it's okay to ask my family.

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Aphasia Distribution Letter

If you experience a challenging time with your communication, we are hopeful this plastic card will support you.

If you are interested in receiving an Aphasia Information Wallet Card and Decal for your car window, please complete the following information:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Person recommending you for this information: \_\_\_\_\_

Scan and email this completed letter to the following email address:

[gcsstroke@gmail.com](mailto:gcsstroke@gmail.com)

**Karen M Rutz**

[kmrutz1@mercy.com](mailto:kmrutz1@mercy.com)

**Deb Walker**

[debra\\_walker@trihealth.com](mailto:debra_walker@trihealth.com)

