

Cognitive-Communication Disorders



What are Cognitive-Communication Disorders?

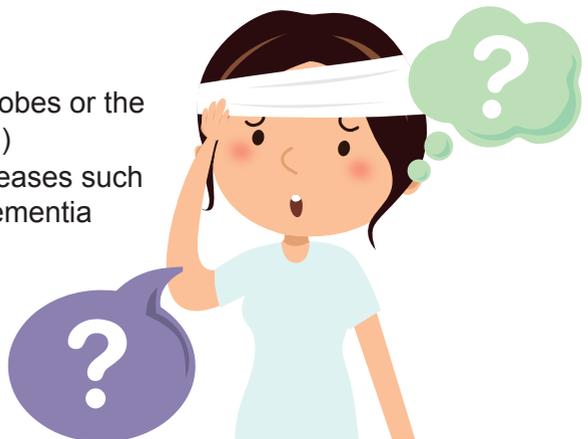
“Cognitive-communication disorders” is a term used to describe communication problems due to cognitive difficulties rather than a primary language or speech impairment.

Cognitive-communication disorders can involve difficulties in one or more of the following areas:

- Memory (recalling facts, procedures, and past and future events)
- Attention (selective concentration)
- Orientation (knowing where, when and who you are, as well as why you are there)
- Organisation (planning and arranging ideas in a useful order)
- Insight and judgement (understanding one’s own limitations and what they mean)
- Processing speed (quick thinking and understanding)
- Language (finding the correct words for communication)
- Perception (interpreting sensory information)
- Reasoning (logically thinking through situations)
- Problem solving (coming up with solutions and evaluating success)
- Social interaction and social communication (being aware of social norms and appropriate responses)

Cognitive-communication disorders can occur for a variety of reasons, including:

- Traumatic brain injury
- Stroke (involving the frontal lobes or the right hemisphere of the brain)
- Progressive neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s disease or dementia
- Hypoxic brain injury
- Brain tumours
- Infections or inflammation of the brain



Impact of Cognitive-Communication Disorders

Patients may be affected differently, and their recovery can vary. A patient with a cognitive-communication disorder may have problems returning to work or studies, maintaining social relationships and coping with everyday tasks.



How can Speech Therapy Help?

Speech therapists work with patients and their families to identify goals for treatment, conduct assessments, and provide treatment and strategies to assist patient.

Speech therapists work as a part of a team, which include doctors, occupational therapists, medical social workers and neuropsychologists to help patients with cognitive-communication disorders. Support from family members is essential in facilitating recovery and participation in everyday life.

Each patient will require individualised therapy and strategies to assist with their specific difficulties. Some examples include:

- Use of strategies to assist with memory difficulties, e.g. reminders on a phone, written memory prompts
- Use of strategies to assist with planning and organisation of specific tasks
- Consistent and structured daily routines
- Targeting specific skills such as problem solving and reasoning
- Communication partner training for family and friends to aid in repairing communication breakdowns



Strategies for families and caregivers:

- ✓ Gain patient's attention before speaking to them
- ✓ Provide patient with ample time for response
- ✓ Minimise background noise or distractions
- ✓ Gently remind patient of the time, date, place and reason for being in the hospital or unwell
- ✓ Speak clearly and simply, avoid talking down to patient
- ✓ Avoid lengthy conversations and complex instructions
- ✓ Avoid sarcasm, complex humour or ambiguous language
- ✓ Check to see if patient understands what you are talking about
- ✓ Write down key information or encourage patient to write it down
- ✓ Talk about familiar people, places and shared activities / experiences

NOTES

The page features a large white area with a blue border and a dotted grid pattern, intended for writing notes. The grid consists of small blue dots arranged in a regular pattern, forming a guide for handwriting. The blue border is composed of several overlapping curved shapes, creating a modern, layered effect. In the background, there are faint, semi-transparent icons of a plus sign and a square, suggesting a medical or scientific theme.

**For more information on
cognitive-communication disorders,
please scan the following QR codes:**



<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/Right-Hemisphere-Brain-Damage/>



<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/Traumatic-Brain-Injury/>

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