

# EMEDICINE 438's CNSPHYSIOLOGY LECTURE 15: Physiology of Speech



## **Physiology of Speech**

#### OBJECTIVES

- Describe brain speech areas as Broca's,Wernicke's and insula .
- Explain sequence of events in speech production .
- Explain speech disorders as aphasia with its types, dysarthria, and acalculia .
- Explain difference between aphasia and dysarthria.

## **SPEECH**

It's the means of communication between the individuals. Speech and other intellectual functions are especially well developed in humans—the animal species in which the neocortical mantle is most highly developed.

- It is the highest function of the nervous system
- Involves understanding of spoken & printed words
- It is the ability to express ideas in speech & writing
- Types of speech:
- 1- Spoken speech: understanding spoken words & expressing ideas in speech & Writing.
- 2- Written speech: understanding written words and expressing ideas in writing.

## **STEPS OF COMMUNICATION:**

Collection of sensory input  $\longrightarrow$  Integration  $\longrightarrow$  Motor execution (Auditory & Visual) (Hearing and articulation mechanism)

#### THERE ARE TWO MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

- Sensory Communication : Auditory communication & Visual communication.

- Motor Communications : speech & write



## Lecture Fifteen



# **SPEECH PRODUCTION**



Initiation will set the airstream in motion, creating airstream is an essential process of sound production due to Change in pressure.

#### THREE MECHANISMS OF INITIATION

**Pulmonic:** Pulmonic airstream mechanism: Lungs 95% of human speech sounds are produced in this way.

**Glottalic:** Airstream mechanism via glottis.

Velaric: Airstream mechanism via velum.

#### **DIRECTION OF AIRFLOW :**

#### **Egressive/pressure Sound Exhalation:** Deflation of lungs and consequent compression of the air. like saying "Hello.....Hello"

Ingressive/suction Sound Inhalation: Sucking air into the lungs. like saying "Hi.....Hi"

Lecture Fifteen



**Phonation** is a process of changing air stream.

- Sound production **by** passage of air over the vocal cord produce speech.
- Sounds, air stream distorted in one way or another
- Phonation is mainly achieved at Larynx, Vocal cords.

Major components : Vocal cords, Glottis, Epiglottis.

Three cartilages : Thyroid, Arytenoid, Cricoid.



- Contribution by structures to shape airflow, A variety of speech sounds can be produced in terms of another way of airstream change Articulation.

- Specific part of the vocal apparatus involved in the production of a speech sound active articulators : Lips , tongue , lower jaw , velum.

- Muscular movements of the mouth, tongue, larynx, vocal cords.

- Responsible for the intonations, timing, and rapid changes in intensities of the sequential sounds.

## **SPEECH CENTERS**

	Wernicke's Area	Broca's Area	Angular Gyrus	Insula
Location	At the posterior end of the superior temporal gyrus.	In the frontal cortex at the lower end of premotor area.	Behind Wernicke's area fused posteriorly into the visual cortex.	A portion of the cerebral cortex folded deep within the lateral sulcus.
Function	<ul> <li>Concerned with comprehension of auditory and visual information.</li> <li>Interpretations of sensory experience.</li> <li>Formation of thought in response to sensory experience.</li> <li>Receive information from both auditory &amp; visual areas</li> <li>Closely associated with primary and secondary auditory areas (this close relation probably results from the fact that the first introduction to language is by way of hearing)</li> <li>Choice of words to express thoughts.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Process information received from Wernicke's Area into detailed &amp; co-ordinated pattern for vocalization.</li> <li>Provides the neural circuitry for word formation.</li> <li>Plans and motor patterns for expressing individual words or even short phrases are initiated and executed here.</li> </ul>	<section-header><text></text></section-header>	<text></text>
Course	It projects information via the arcuate fasciculus to Broca's area (area 44)	<ul> <li>Then project it to motor cortex to initiate the appropriate movement of the lips &amp; larynx to produces speech.</li> <li>If writing is concerned, then information is processed in the arms and hand region of the motor cortex » initiation of necessary muscle movement in the hand &amp; arms required for writing a particular word.</li> </ul>		
Damage	Wernicke's Aphasia: "sensory aphasia": - Unable to interpret the thought. - Meaningless words with loss of comprehension - Fluent Wotor Aphasia: - Non fluent - Normal comprehension but voice production is defective		<ul> <li>Anomic: the patient is unable to name objects.</li> <li>Dyslexia "Word blindness"</li> </ul>	Motor Aphasia: - Progressive - non fluent + normal comprehension

It is interesting that in individuals who learn a second language in adulthood, MRI reveals that the portion of **Broca's area** concerned with it is adjacent to but separate from the area concerned with the native language. However, in children who learn two languages early in life, only a single area is involved with both languages. It is well known, of course, that children acquire fluency in a second language more easily than adults.

#### **BOX 15-1: GUYTON AND HALL**

The Angular Gyrus Area Is Needed for Initial Processing of Visual Language (Reading).

A visual association area that feeds visual information conveyed by words read from a book into Wernicke's area, the language comprehension area. It is needed to make meaning out of the visually perceived words. In its absence, a person can still have excellent language comprehension through hearing but not through reading.

- Lying immediately behind Wernicke's area and fusing posteriorly into the visual areas of the occipital lobe as well. If this region is destroyed while Wernicke's area in the temporal lobe is still intact, the person can still interpret auditory experiences as usual, but the stream of visual experiences passing into Wernicke's area from the visual cortex is mainly blocked.
- Therefore, the person may be able to see words and even know that they are words but not be able to interpret their meanings. This condition is called dyslexia, or word blindness.

## THE ACT OF SPEECH DIVIDES INTO TWO ASPECTS

SENSORY ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION:



MOTOR ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION :

(1) Formation in the mind of thoughts to be expressed, as well as choice of words to be used.

(2) Motor control of vocalization and the actual act of vocalization itself.

"Reading"	"Hearing-Talking"		
It will start with the primary visual cortex because the stimuli here is preserved by vision	It will start with the primary Auditory area because the stimuli here is preserved by <b>Auditory</b> area		
center			

#### **BOX 15-2: GUYTON AND HALL**

THERE IS TWO PRINCIPAL PATHWAYS FOR COMMUNICATION:	ading and then enabling in response	
1 <sup>-</sup> Hearing and speaking response. 2 <sup>-</sup> Ke		Motor cortex SPEAKING A HEARD WORD Arcuate fasciculus
Auditory Language Perception "Hearing-Talking"	Visual Language Perception "Reading"	AS A
1) reception in the primary auditory area of the sound signals that encode the words	<ul> <li>The comparable steps in reading and then speaking in response.</li> </ul>	Broca's area
(2) interpretation of the words in Wernicke's area	- The initial receptive area for the words is in the	Primary auditory area
(3) determination, also in Wernicke's area, of the thoughts and the words to be spoken	primary visual area rather than in the primary auditory area.	SPEAKING A WRITTEN WORD
(4) transmission of signals from Wernicke's area to Broca's area by way of the arcuate fasciculus	<ul> <li>The information then passes through early stages of interpretation in the angular gyrus region and finally reaches its full level of</li> </ul>	
(5) activation of the skilled motor programs in Broca's area for control of word formation	recognition in Wernicke's area.	
(6) transmission of appropriate signals into the motor cortex to control the speech muscles.	<ul> <li>From here, the sequence is the same as for speaking in response to the spoken word.</li> </ul>	Broca's area Wernicke's area
-		Figure 15-8

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Nucleus ambiguus of

## **ASSOCIATION AREAS**

These areas receive and analyze signals simultaneously from multiple regions of both the motor and sensory cortices as well as from subcortical structures.





#### Figure 15-11

## **SPEECH DISORDERS**

Area	Lesion feature	
Auditory association areas	Word deafness	
Visual association areas	Word blindness "dyslexia"	
Wernicke's Aphasia	Unable to interpret the thought	
Broca's Area Causes	Motor Aphasia	
Global Aphasia	Unable to interpret the thought Motor Aphasia	

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Dysphasia:	It is an acquired loss of production or comprehension of spoken and/or written language secondary to brain damage.			
Dyscalculia	Difficulty in learning or comprehending arithmetic and mathematics, Seen in developmental disorder.			
<b>Dysarthria:</b> Abnormality in articulation (motor dysfunction) due to neurological continuous involving motor function (upper or lower motor neuron lesion). No abstract in the speech centre or in its pathways results in <b>stuttering speech</b> .				
Slurred Speech	Language is intact. Paralysis, slowing or in coordination of muscles of articulation or local discomfort causes various different patterns of dysarthria. -Speaking softly or barely able to whisper - Slow rate of speech -Rapid rate of speech with a "mumbling" quality - Limited tongue, lip, and jaw movement - Abnormal intonation (rhythm) when speaking -Changes in vocal quality ("nasal" speech or sounding "stuffy") -Hoarseness <b>Examples:</b> -gravelly' speech of upper motor neuronal lesions of lower cranial nerves -jerky, ataxic speech of cerebellar lesions (Scanning Speech) -the monotone of Parkinson's disease (Slurred) -speech in myasthenia that fatigues and dies away. -Many aphasic patients are also somewhat dysarthric.			
Stuttering	<ul> <li>Stuttering affects the fluency of speech.</li> <li>Talking with involuntary repetition of sounds, especially initial consonants.</li> <li>It begins during childhood and, in some cases, lasts throughout life.</li> <li>The disorder is characterized by disruptions in the production of speech sounds, also called "disfluencies"</li> <li>Have right cerebral dominance and widespread overactivity in the cerebral cortex and cerebellum. This includes increased activity of the supplementary motor area.</li> </ul>			
Disordered phonation				
<b>Dysphonia:</b>	<ul> <li>Phonation: Sound production by passage of air over the vocal cord.</li> <li>Dysphonia: Abnormal sound production due to problem in vocal cord e.g. paralysis, CVA, and other causes.</li> <li>Causes:</li> <li>-Paralysis of both vocal cord e.g whispering sound and inspiratory stridor.</li> <li>-Paralysis of left vocal cord: The voice becomes weak and cough bovine. Mainly due to recurrent laryngeal palsy</li> </ul>			

#### Aphasia

Abnormality of language function due to injury of language centres in cerebral cortex of

left cerebral hemisphere.
Comprehension or expression of words will be affected, due to thrombus or embolism of cerebral vessels or trauma.



TYPES OF APHASIA				
Motor Aphasia	<ul> <li>Broca`s aphasia (non fluent): Lesion of Broca's area.</li> <li>Patient will understand spoken &amp; written words but find it difficult to speech or to write</li> <li>Poorly articulated speech, slow with great effort &amp; abnormal rhythm.</li> <li>In some cases speech may be limited to 2-3 words</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Insula damage: Progressive non-fluent aphasia (in old patients)</li> <li>Deterioration of normal language function</li> <li>Normal comprehension</li> <li>Intact other non-linguistic cognition</li> <li>It's due to degenerative disorders (such as Alzheimer's disease) or atrophy of the left anterior insular cortex</li> </ul>			
Sensory Or Wernicke's Aphasia (Fluent) <sup>1,2</sup>	<ul> <li>Lesion of wernicke's area +/- arcuate fasciculus</li> <li><u>Impaired comprehension</u></li> <li>Loss of intellectual function</li> <li>Failure to interprets meaning of written or spoken words</li> <li><u>Meaningless &amp; excessive talk (in severe cases)</u></li> </ul>			
Conductive Aphasia (Fluent)	Lesion of nerve fibres of arcuate fasciculus - Patient <u>understand speech</u> of others but can not repeat it - Meaningless speech			
Anomic "Nominal" Aphasia	<ul> <li>Lesion of angular gyrus, thus Broca's &amp; Wernicke's are intact</li> <li>Speech &amp; auditory comprehension is normal but visual comprehension is abnormal, due to visual information is not processed &amp; not transmitted to Wernicke's area</li> <li>Dyslexia (word blindness) interruption in the flow of visual experience into Wernicke's area from visual area</li> </ul>			
Global Aphasia "Central Aphasia"	Global AphasiaThis means the combination of the expressive problems of Broca's aphasia and the lo comprehension of Wernicke's. - The patient can neither speak nor understand language. - It is due to widespread damage to speech areas and is the commonest aphasia after a severe left hemisphere infarct. Writing and reading are also affected.			
FUNCTIONS OF CEREBRAL HEMISPHERES				
Right hemisphere (the representational Left hemisphere (the categorical hemisphere) hemisphere)				
<ul> <li>The right hemisphere controls the left side of the body</li> <li>Temporal and spatial relationships</li> <li>Analyzing nonverbal information</li> <li>Communicating emotion</li> <li>recognition of emotion</li> <li>Recognition of tunes, rhythms</li> <li>Holistic problem solving</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>The left hemisphere controls the right side of the body</li> <li>Produce and understand language</li> <li>understanding and manipulating language: recognition, use, and understanding of words and symbols</li> <li>Speech</li> <li>Identification of objects by name</li> <li>Mathematics, logic, analysis</li> </ul>		

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1. After severe damage in Wernicke's area, a person might hear perfectly well and even recognize different words but still be unable to arrange these words into a coherent thought. Likewise, the person may be able to read words from the printed page but be unable to recognize the thought that is conveyed.
- Damage to the Broca's area results in the inability to speak fluently despite having normal comprehension and vocal mechanisms. On the other hand, Wernicke's aphasia is the inability to understand or produce meaningful language even though they can speak fluently.

SUMMARY					
Speech Production					
1. Initiation		Action that initiates the flow of air which is achieved by the <b>Lung</b> and <b>glottis</b> and <b>velum</b> .			
2. Phonation		Action that modulates the quality of sounds which is achieved by the <b>larynx</b> and <b>vocal cords</b> .			
3. Articulation		Action that modulates or articulates which is achieved by the structures of the <b>mouth</b> .			
Speech Centers					
	Wernicke's		Broca's	Angular gyrus	Insula
Function	Interpretations of sensory experience		provides the neural circuitry for word formation	Interpretation of information obtained from reading from visual cortex	Contains Speech articulation area
Damage	Wernicl "senso	ke's Aphasia ry aphasia"	Motor Aphasia	-Anomic -Dyslexia "Word	Motor Aphasia: -Progressive non fluent + normal





# QUIZ



- 1. Which of the speech centers initiates the movement of the lips, tongue, and larynx to produce speech?
- A) Wernicke's area
- B) Broca's area
- C) Insula
- D) Angular gyrus
- 2. Action that modulates the quality of sounds which is achieved by the larynx and vocal cords?
- A) Articulation
- B) Phonation
- C) Initiation
- D) Modulation
- 3. Which speech center damage will cause motor aphasia?
- A) Wernicke's area
- B) Broca's area
- C) Insula
- **D)** Angular gyrus
- 4. Which speech disorder affects the fluency of speech?
- A) Stuttering
- B) Dysphonia
- C) Dysphasia
- D) Global aphasia

5. Which of the following is NOT a function of the Parietooccipitotemporal association area?

- A) Area for Language Comprehension
- B) Area for Initial Processing of Visual Language (Reading)
- C) Area for Naming Objects
- D) Hand and eye motor function

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the most important association areas?
- 2. What are the causes of dysphonia?
- 3. Define central aphasia?

- 1.
  - Parietooccipitotemporal association area
  - Prefrontal association area
  - Limbic association area
- 2.
- Paralysis of both vocal cords
- Paralysis of left vocal cord
- 3. The combination of the expressive problems of **Broca's aphasia** and the loss of comprehension of **Wernicke's**.

#### ANSWER KEY: C, B, B, A, D



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## REFERENCES

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