# **PHYSIOLOGY OF SPEECH**



Prof. Sultan Ayoub Meo MBBS, Ph.D, M Med Ed (Dundee), FRCP (London, FRCP (Dublin), FRCP (Glasgow), FRCP (Edinburgh) Professor and Consultant, Department of Physiology College of Medicine, King Saud University



## **Lecture 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, Dysphonia etc
- Explain difference between aphasia and dysarthria.



**Definition:** Speech may be defined as the means of communication between the two individual or group of individuals

**Means of communications:** 

**Sensory Communication** Auditory communication Visual communication

# **Motor Communications:** Taking Writing



**SPEECH STRUCTURES** 

**Oral Cavity** 

Nasal Cavity

Pharynx

Larynx



# **1. Initiation**

Action that initiates the flow

# 2. Phonation

Action that modulates the quality of sounds

# **3. Articulation**

Action that modulates or articulates

# **1. INITIATION**

# Setting the airstream in motion

Creating airstream is an essential process of sound production 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 : Velum



# **1. INITIATION: DIRECTION OF AIR FLOW**

Egressive/pressure Sound Exhalation: Deflation of lungs and consequent compression of the air Hello.....Hello.....

> Hey Hi Hello

**Ingressive/suction Sound** 

Inhalation: Sucking air into the lungs Hi.....Hi.....

# **2. PHONATION**

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 CORD

Major components

Vocal cords, Glottis, Epiglottis

Three cartilages: Thyroid Arytenoid Cricoid

# **3. ARTICULATION**

Contribution by structures to shape airflow A variety of speech sounds can be produced in terms of another way of air stream change – Articulation Articulation is done mainly at VOCal COrd

An specific part of the vocal apparatus involved in the production of a speech sound Active articulators

Lips, tongue, lower jaw, velum

# **3. ARTICULATION**

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

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





### Means of communications:

**Sensory Communication** Auditory communication Visual communication

**Motor Communications:** Taking Writing



**Steps of Communications** 

**Collection of sensory input:** 

Auditory and visual

Integration: Hearing and articulation mechanism

**Motor execution** 



# **Brain Areas Concerned with Speech / Language**

- Wernick's Area
- Broca'a Area
- Speech articulation Area in Insula
- Motor Cortex
- Angular Gyrus
- Aud Assoc Areas



Broca's Area. A special region in the frontal cortex, called *Broca's area*, *provides the neural circuitry for word formation*. This area, is located partly in the posterior lateral prefrontal cortex and partly in the premotor area. It is here that plans and motor patterns for expressing individual words or even short phrases are initiated and executed. This area also works in close association with Wernicke's language comprehension center in the temporal association cortex,







# **ASSOCIATION AREAS**

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

The most important association areas are Parieto-occipitotemporal association area Prefrontal association area Limbic association area.

# PARIETO-OCCIPITOTEMPORAL ASSOCIATION AREAS

- 1. Analysis of the Spatial Coordinates of the Body.
- 2. Area for Language Comprehension.
- 3. Area for Initial Processing of Visual Language (Reading).
- 4. Area for Naming Objects.



# PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND ASSOCIATION AREAS



# **SPEECH PRODUCTION PROPCESS**



# MECHANISM OF ARTICULATION



Muscles of expression, innervated by the facial nerve, play an

additional role in articulation and weakness also results in dysarthria.

120



# **CATEGORICAL HEMISPHERE**

# APHASIA IS LOSS OF OR DEFECTIVE LANGUAGE FROM DAMAGE TO THE SPEECH CENTRES WITHIN THE LEFT HEMISPHERE.

# **PLEASE NOTE THAT**

IN APHASIA THERE IS NO DAMAGE TO VISION, HEARING OR MOTOR PARALYSIS.THE DAMAGE IS IN SPEECH CENTERS IN CATEGORICAL HEMISPHERES

# **APHASIA**



# **SPEECH DIRORDERS**

AREA	LESION FAETURES
Auditory association areas	Word deafness
Visual association areas	Word blindness called dyslexia teapot tabpot tabpot tapot teoqot teoqot tabbot teoqot tabbot teoqot tabbot teoqot
Wernicke's Aphasia	Unable to interpret the thought
<b>Broca's Area Causes</b>	Motor Aphasia
Global Aphasia	Unable to interpret the thought Motor Aphasia

# **SPEECH DIRORDERS: DYSPHASIA**

#### **DISORDERS OF SPEECH – DYSPHASIA**

Dysphasia is an acquired loss of production or comprehension of spoken and/or written language secondary to brain damage.

Hand preference is associated with 'hemisphere dominance' for language. In right-handed people the left hemisphere is dominant; in left-handed people the left hemisphere is dominant in most, though 25% have a dominant right hemisphere.

The cortical centres for language reside in the dominant hemisphere.

#### 1. Broca's area

Executive or motor area for the production of language – lies in the inferior part of the frontal lobe on the lateral surface of the cerebral hemisphere abutting the mouth of the Sylvian fissure.



2 and 3. Receptive areas Here the spoken word is understood and the appropriatae reply or action initiated. These areas lie at the posterior end of the Sylvian fissure on the lateral surface of the hemisphere.

The temporal lobe receptive area (2) lies close to the auditory cortex of the transverse gyrus of the temporal lobe. The parietal lobe receptive area (3) lies within the angular gyrus.

Receptive and expressive areas must be linked in order to integrate function. The link is provided by (4), the **arcuate fasciculus**, a fibre tract which runs forward in the subcortical white matter.

Dysphasia may develop as a result of vascular, neoplastic, traumatic, infective or degenerative disease of the cerebrum when language areas are involved.

# **SPEECH DIRORDERS: DYSARTHRIA**

# DYSARTHRIA: MEANS DISORDER IN ARTICULATION

## e.g., SLURRED SPEECH

Dysarthria disturbances of the articulation. In some individuals

who has no abnormality in the speech centre or in its pathways

### results in stuttering speech

"Slurred" speech 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

# **SPEECH DIRORDERS: DYSARTHRIA**

# **DISORDERED ARTICULATION**

Slurred speech.

Language is intact,

Paralysis, slowing or in coordination of muscles of articulation or local discomfort causes various different patterns of dysarthria.

#### Examples

- gravelly' speech of upper motor neuronal lesions of lower cranial nerves,
- jerky, ataxic speech of cerebellar lesions (Scannimg Speech),
- •the monotone of Parkinson's disease (Slurred),
- •speech in myasthenia that fatigues and dies away. Many aphasic patients are also somewhat dysarthric.





# STUTTERING

- Stuttering affects the fluency of speech.
- Talking with involuntary repetition of sounds, especially initial consonants
- It begins during childhood and, in some cases, lasts throughout life.
- The disorder is characterized by disruptions in the production of speech sounds, also called "disfluencies
- Have right cerebral dominance and widespread overactivity in the cerebral cortex and cerebellum. This includes increased activity of the supplementary motor area.

# **SPEECH DIRORDERS:**

# **DISORDERED PHONATION**

- Sound production by passage of air over the vocal cord.
- **Dysphonia:** Abnormal sound production due to problem in vocal cord e.g., paralysis, CVA, other causes
- Causes: Paralysis of both vocal cord e.g whispering sound and inspiratory strider
- Paralysis of left vocal cord: The voice becomes week and cough bovine. Mainly due to recurrent laryngeal palsy

# **GLOBAL APHASIA** (CENTRAL APHASIA)

This means the combination of the expressive problems of Broca's aphasia and the loss of 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.

