

Project Title

Supported Conversation Group for Persons with Chronic Aphasia

Organisation(s) Involved

Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Project Period

Start date: 2016

Completed date: On-going

Aims

- For clients to employ communication skills and strategies they have learnt in a functional setting
- For clients to engage in activity and interact with other participants
- To improve the quantity of communication transaction and initiation of clients

Background

The Supported Conversation Group was implemented to provide clients with chronic aphasia with opportunities to interact and engage in conversation within a supported environment.

Methods

A 10-week group therapy programme focused on facilitating interactions and transactions within day-to-day activities and facilitator-led discussions. Using a single case experimental design replicated across seven participants, we examined the effectiveness of SCA group therapy in facilitating language function, participation and quality of life. Outcomes were measured using the Western Aphasia Battery -Revised (WAB-R), Measure of Participation in Conversation (MPC) and Modified Aphasia Questionnaire (MAQ) respectively.

Results

The Supported Conversation Group increased interactions and the success of conversational transactions with communication partners. Treatment effects, however, did not extend to quality of life, although this was self-reported to have improved in majority of participants.

Lessons Learnt

Key lessons learnt/ challenges experienced specific to this project, tips/ pointers for others who wish to embark on a similar project.

Conclusion

Despite no improvements in language function, these findings suggest Supported Conversation Group can be a value-adding alternative to traditional therapy for improving conversational skills in persons with chronic aphasia.

Additional Information

Supported Conversation Group runs in both English and Mandarin

Project Category

Clinical Improvement, Care Redesign

Keywords

Care Redesign, Clinical Improvement, Research, Patient Centric Care, Functional Outcomes, Chronic aphasia, Group therapy, Supported Conversation Group, Supported Communication Environment, Communication Skills & Strategies, Functional Setting, Quality of Communication Transactions, Facilitator-led Discussion, Western Aphasia Battery -Revised, Measure of Participation in Conversation, Modified Aphasia Questionnaire, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Allied Health, Speech Therapy

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