**Current therapies: where are we now?**

**Multi-Modal Strategies**
- Conversation Coaching (Beeke et al., 1998)
- Communication Partners (1999)

**Therapy trains:**
- Person with Aphasia (PwA)
- Conversation Partner (CP)
- Both (PwA & CP)

**Artificial Clinical Based Tasks**

**Interaction (CA) Strategies**

**Factors thought to influence a PwA’s conversation outcomes**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Conversation Partner</th>
<th>Executive Function</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Attitude “sometimes it was the partner’s attitude that influenced the use of strategies e.g. by informing the informant to practice talking instead of using strategies” (Johnson et al., 2012)</td>
<td>- Research has suggested independent of language deficit, a link between:</td>
<td>- Novel vs. expanded: there is a difference between “new learning” and “expanding upon spontaneous strategies” (Simmons-Mackie &amp; Damico 1997; Krawt 1990; Purdy et al 1994)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Cognitive ability (Saldert et al 2012)</td>
<td>- Executive function and conversation management (Frankel et al, 2007; Wielraert 2011)</td>
<td>- Automatic vs. effortful (Simmons-Mackie &amp; Damico 1997): there is a difference between revealing a PwA’s communicative abilities indirectly as a consequence of CP conversation changes (Kagan 1998; Wilkinson et al 2010) and “active training” of multi-modal strategy use in conversation (Beeke et al, 2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Both may limit a PwA’s opportunity for strategy use (Johnson et al., 2012)</td>
<td>- Cognitive flexibility and flexible use of strategies in functional communication tasks (Purdy &amp; Koch 2006)</td>
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**Where should we be going?**

**Helping people with aphasia have better conversations: which therapy works best & why?**

**My PhD Research Questions**

1. What type of speech and language therapy (a) Better Conversations with Aphasia Therapy or (b) Communication Strategy Training is most effective at improving a PwA’s strategy use in everyday conversation?
2. Does a PwA’s cognitive abilities impact on the ability to change communication strategy use in conversation after intervention?

**Methodology**

A multiple baseline case series therapy study with imbedded cross over intervention (n=6) comparing 6 weeks Better Conversations with Aphasia Therapy (ThA) to 6 weeks Communication Strategy Training (ThB).

**Assessment**

Will include a full cognitive profile, 12 conversation samples and measures of wellbeing.

**Main outcome measures**

- The Aphasia Conversation Measure (Beeke et al unpublished) will quantify changes in PwA multi-modal strategy use in dyads videotaped conversations pre, post and between both intervention phases.
- A modified version of Purdy & Koch’s (2006) Cognitive Flexibility Measure will quantify changes in how a PwA switches between multi-modal strategies in their conversations pre, post and between both intervention phases.

**Analysis**

Changes in strategy use after therapy will be analysed quantitatively. Cognitive profile will be compared to a PwA’s conversation and wellbeing outcomes.

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**References**


Wilkinson, R., Beeke, F., Lovelock, E. & Saldert, B. (2012) Rehabilitation targeted at everyday communication: can we change the talk of people with aphasia and their significant others within conversation? Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 93(2 Suppl), S70-S86.