

Final Report- BAS Small Grants Award

This project aimed to create information videos for people with word finding difficulties following an Acquired Brain injury. Videos aimed to provide an accessible prompt to reduce word finding difficulties and frustration for the person with Aphasia and to support family and friends by providing education and information.

Consultation took place with a focus group of 10 people with word finding difficulties on The SLT's current caseload. Views were sought on the production and script of 60-second videos and their availability via a popular social media platform. Structured interviews lasting between 30-60 minutes were carried out with participants using a 10-item questionnaire. Information was collated and The SLT developed scripts based on feedback from participants.

Videos were made using an iPhone with SLT delivering scripts. To ensure the videos were freely available they were posted on The Trust YouTube channel. This meant that videos had to meet specific Trust criteria.

Around this time, The SLT moved to another NHS Trust. Due to time constraints, only 5 participants and their families from the original focus group were consulted on the videos. Feedback was mostly all positive. All reported that they were able to watch the videos frequently to support memory. One participant reported that they could pause the video when they needed to and replay specific sections. One family member reported that they had shared the video to their friends and felt that education had increased participation. One participant however felt that it was fatiguing to watch a video due to the auditory and visual requirements. All fed back that they appreciated the advice had come from people experiencing similar difficulties, 'they know how we feel'.

Initially 2 videos were planned. Following consultation with the focus group, a third video was indicated. Many of the participants talked about how they wanted their families to know how it felt to experience word finding difficulties and the impact of word finding on self-esteem.

The participants used the term word finding to talk about specific words they were unable to say resulting from an expressive aphasia. Word finding was also used to describe reduced processing leading to effortful conversation. Participants used the same term interchangeably.

The relationship between Cognitive Communication Disorder, (CCD) and word finding difficulties was mentioned by all participants. This included the impact of increased external processing requirements on word finding. Several participants talked about having a choice between remembering their strategies to cue a word or remembering the topic of the conversation. Further work is indicated on advice provided to this client group.

The original videos have now been circulated on current caseload. In one case, they have been adapted for a different social media platform, TikTok, the preferred platform for a younger client. The videos have been used by other SLTs working
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across The Trust and shared with private SLT providers. A poster was presented at an international conference on interim findings with a QR code to access videos.