BREAST CANCER TREATMENT: AN ON-GOING JOURNEY OF COGNITIVE RECOVERY

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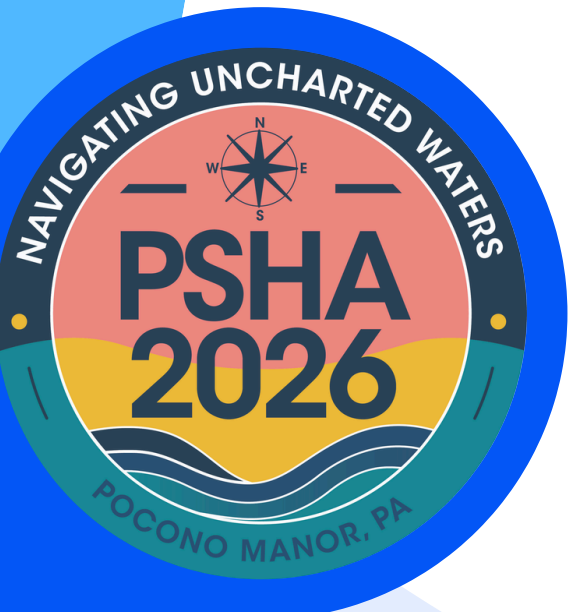
Learning Objectives:

- Attendees will be able to explain 5 key areas of cognitive/linguistic deficit associated with breast cancer treatment.
- Attendees will be able to describe 3 potential compensatory strategies for managing cognitive/linguistic deficits associated with cancer treatment.
- Attendees will be able to discuss 2 lifestyle and wellness interventions supported by research that can help to mitigate the impact of cognitive/linguistic weaknesses.



ASHA CE APPROVED PROVIDER

Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Breast cancer is currently ranked as the most frequently diagnosed cancer worldwide in women. There are an estimated 2.3 million new breast cancer diagnoses each year. In the United States, 1 out of every 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Treatment for breast cancer typically includes surgery, along with various combinations of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, with other adjuvant therapy (depending on the type of cancer) following the primary course of treatment. Cognitive side effects of chemotherapy and ER hormone/endocrine therapies can occur during treatment, immediately after treatment, or months to years after treatment. Common areas of cognitive impact include short-term memory loss, reduced executive functioning skills, decreased concentration, decreased processing speed, and difficulties learning new skills. In addition, language-based issues are noted, with word-finding deficits and specific difficulties recalling verbal information. This presentation will be given by an SLP with over 30 years of clinical experience in a variety of settings, who recently navigated the treatment process for breast cancer and is now learning to manage the cognitive and linguistic changes that have occurred as a direct result of that treatment. The speaker will share firsthand personal experiences interpreted through the lens of her decades of professional experience, reviewing the cause of the deficits, the compensatory and therapeutic options that have been beneficial, and current research into the trajectory of recovery. The combination of her firsthand account and professional knowledge will leave attendees with a powerful look into the experiences of cancer survivors and information regarding how we as SLPs can best support their recovery.

Speaker's Bio: Dr. Batson-Magnuson is a full professor at East Stroudsburg University in the Department of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences. She completed her Ph.D. at Rutgers University (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey). She has over 30 years of clinical experience in both the educational and medical settings. Her research includes validity of standardized assessments, the connection between oral language development and reading performance, service learning, systems theory, and the impact inflammatory disease on cognitive-linguistic performance. She has published on the delayed sequela and the impact of aging following TBI, service learning, test validation, application of system theory, and language skills as precursors to reading. She has presented on the cognitive-linguistic correlates of rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus and the audiological manifestations of inflammatory arthritis at the state, national, and international level, the connection between language and reading, distributed speech treatment protocols, and vocal cord dysfunction and recurrent pneumonia. Her most recent research has been focused on exploring the cognitive/linguistic performance of individuals, with inflammatory diseases and other iatrogenic causes including the impact on word finding, memory, and executive functioning.