FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLINICIANS: SERVICE FOR BILINGUAL CLIENTS WITH APHASIA

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BURCE WISENBURN HAS NO RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE.

Learning Objectives:

- Attendees will identify effective ways to work with an interpreter
- Attendees will identify best practices to assess bilingual individuals with aphasia
- Attendees will identify evidence-based treatment methods for bilingual people with aphasia

This presentation focuses on strategies for providing speech-language pathology treatment for bilingual persons with aphasia (BPWA), especially for monolingual English-speaking clinicians. Approximately 22% of the U.S. population speaks a language other than English at home (Dietrich & Hernandez, 2022). Speech-language pathologists will need to serve the growing bilingual population in the United States (Lorenzen & Murray, 2008). English speaking speech-language pathologists may often serve BPWA in English (the speaker's L2) in the hopes that it will carry over to L1, resulting in cross-language transfer (CLT). Therefore, clinicians should be aware of the efficacy of aphasia treatment for both the first language (L1) and treated second language (L2) of BPWA. Characteristics of bilingual people with aphasia will be reviewed. These include parallel and non-parallel patterns of deficits (Paradis, 2004). Frequent recovery patterns in both languages will also be presented (Paradis, 2004). The concept of CLT will be explained, as it has been a major consideration in the provision of therapy (Faroqi-Shah et al., 2010). Clinical issues in the provision of services for BPWA, including those with limited English proficiency, will be discussed. This includes the effective use of interpreters in treatment (Alani et al., 2024). Also, assessment strategies will be reviewed, including the use of the Bilingual Aphasia Test (BAT, Paradis & Libben, 1987). Evidence-based treatment options for BPWA will be presented. This includes treatment for word finding deficits (Lee & Faroqi-Shah, 2024) and agrammatism (Wisenburn et al., in preparation, 2025). The evidence of CLT and strategies for providing treatment for this population will be discussed. Also, the use of augmentative-alternative communication (AAC) for BPWA using both low and high technology systems will be presented, including devices capable of speech output in various languages.

Speaker's Bio: Bruce Wisenburn, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, is an Associate Professor in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Marywood University. He is a PA licensed speech-language pathologist who focuses on cases of adult acquired neurogenic communication disorders. His research is in the areas of evidence-based practice for aphasia therapy, computer applications for AAC, and AAC for Spanish speakers. He has presented and published numerous meta-analyses and systematic reviews related to therapy for people with aphasia.