

What is Dysphasia?

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Dysphasia (or aphasia) is the general term used to describe a difficulty with language.

This affects your ability to communicate.

What causes dysphasia?

You may have a difficulty communicating as a result of:

- Stroke
- Head/ Brain injury
- Dementia
- Brain tumour
- Neurological condition (e.g. meningitis)

How do I know if I have dysphasia?

You may experience:

- difficulty understanding what people are saying
- difficulty thinking of the names of objects/ people/ places
- difficulty forming sentences
- difficulty understanding writing
- difficulty knowing what to write

- taking extra time to process information

Sometimes it might be difficult to understand **why** other people can't understand you.

How is dysphasia treated?

If you have a difficulty with language/ communicating then you will be seen by a Speech & Language Therapist.

They will perform a full assessment of your communication abilities and will provide therapy exercises and any resources that you need (e.g. communication chart).

What can other people do to help?

- Face the person you are speaking to.
- Reduce background noise.
- Talk about familiar things, e.g. family.
- Speak slowly and clearly rather than loudly.
- Use shorter sentences.
- Repeat what you have said if necessary.
- Stress important words.

- Use gesture and facial expression.
- Allow plenty of time.
- Take turns to speak so that only one person at a time is speaking.
- Try writing or drawing key words.
- **Don't** pretend to understand.
- **Don't** finish someone's sentence.

Other sources of information:

www.stroke.org.uk

www.thebraintumourcharity.org

www.alzheimers.org.uk

www.aphasianow.org

www.aphasiatavistocktrust.org

If you have any questions then please contact the Speech & Language Therapy department on 0151 529 4986.



If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please contact:

Tel No: 0151 529 2906

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