

Dysphasia

What is Dysphasia?

One in a group of speech disorders in which there is impairment of the power of expression by speech, writing, or signs, or impairment of the power of comprehension of spoken or written language.

Description

Currently, over one million people in the United States suffer a permanent type of dysphasia. Although dysphasia may manifest in several ways, the common cause for its onset is damage or trauma to the brain. Stroke, in particular, is the most common cause for dysphasia. Of the half million stroke victims reported annually in the United States, approximately 100,000 will suffer some form of dysphasia. Infection, direct trauma, transient ischemic attack, brain tumors, and degeneration can also instigate the onset of dysphasia.

Symptoms

Symptoms of dysphasia will quickly manifest after damage to the brain has occurred, and will present in accordance to the particular type of dysphasia suffered. Due to the proximity to areas of the brain that control motor function, expressive dysphasias can be accompanied by noticeable motor impairment. The majority of symptoms will be language related, including:

- Difficulty remembering words
- Difficulty naming objects and/or people
- Difficulty speaking in complete and/or meaningful sentences
- Difficulty speaking in any fashion
- Difficulty reading or writing
- Difficulty expressing thoughts and feelings
- Difficulty understanding spoken language
- Using incorrect or jumbled words
- Using words in the wrong order