

Title: Developing New Treatment Models for Stroke-Induced Aphasia: Is there a Hope?

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Aphasia is an acquired language impairment that can result from an interruption of blood supply to the language areas of rhe brain. Recovery of language ability from stroke is often determined by the lesion impact and cortical reorganisation in the infarcted brain area(s). Aphasia treatment attempts to maximise recovery of language ability by manipulating neuroscience principles especially the principle of neuroplasticity. However, despite the extant aphasia treatment literature, many questions regarding how neuroscience principles can be manipulated to optimize aphasia recovery and treatment and how new models can be designed to guide aphasia treatment remain unanswered. One possible explanation for this problem is because specific neural substrates underpinning distinct language structures are not directly targeted for treatment and the physiology of these substrates are not fully taken into consideration in developing aphasia treatments. Additionally, research has shown that neural substrates underpinning language are also engaged in non-linguistic tasks. A new model for treatment of patients with stroke induced aphasia is proposed. The integrated treatment model (ITM) for aphasia rehabilitation is proposed to maximise neuroplasticity and bring about better treatment outcomes in patients with stroke induced aphasia through synergizing different intensive sensory experiences (linguistic and non-linguistic tasks) that innervates targeted infarcted neural substrates underpinning impaired language structures in patients with stroke.

Biography

Gerald is a University Scholar and PhD student at the University of Ibadan.

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