GOALS OF THE STUDY
The materials collected from your participation in this research study will be used to investigate a variety of topics. The information that we obtain from you and other participants could lead to exciting developments in the knowledge and treatment of aphasic dementia.

Specific Goals

- To evaluate the usefulness of speech and language therapy on the communication abilities of those with aphasic dementia, including primary progressive aphasia (PPA) and Alzheimer's disease.
- To identify the most effective speech and language strategies for patients with aphasic dementia.
- To determine the feasibility of Internet-based speech and language therapy.
- To improve access of care to patients by providing Internet-based speech therapy sessions.

INCLUSION CRITERIA
To take part in this study, participants must have:

- A diagnosis of dementia with language as a primary symptom (i.e., aphasia).
- An informant, such as a spouse, who knows the participant well and can answer questions about his/her communication ability.

Since the speech therapy sessions are Internet-based, participants do not need to be located in the Chicago area to participate.

COMPENSATION
Participants will be paid $50 each for completing the 2-month and 6-month evaluation sessions.

CONTACT
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- Run 4 Papa
INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY

The study will involve 12 to 15 sessions over the course of 12 months. Some of these sessions will be in-person at the Northwestern Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center (CNADC), while others will take place over the Internet, using an online study portal.

| Initial Evaluation – In-Person |
You will meet with a speech therapist for an evaluation of your language and communication skills, test out different communication strategies, and develop a plan for your therapy sessions. The session will last about two hours. At this session, the therapist will also ask you to complete questionnaires about your communication abilities.

| Therapy Sessions – Online |
One week later, you will start speech and language therapy sessions using a video-chat program. These hour-long sessions will occur eight times over eight weeks. Your therapist will teach you new communication strategies to practice and assign weekly home exercises through your online portal.

| 2-Month Evaluation – Online |
After the eight sessions of speech and language therapy, you will meet with the speech therapist via video-chat. This session will last about one hour. The same questionnaires from the initial evaluation will be mailed to your home for you to complete.

| Check-In Sessions – Online |
Half of the study participants will be asked to undergo three check-in sessions with the speech therapist. These hour-long sessions will take place remotely, via video-chat, and will occur once a month, for three months. At these sessions, the therapist will review your communication strategies and make suggestions if needed.

| 6- & 12-Month Evaluations – In-Person |
During these sessions, you will meet with the speech therapist for an evaluation of your language and communication skills. You will also complete questionnaires about your communication abilities and participate in interviews about your experience in the research study. These sessions will last about one hour and will occur approximately 6-months and 12-months after your initial evaluation.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

Because this study involves an Internet-based video-chat program to conduct speech therapy sessions, participants will need the following:

+ A computer with speakers and a microphone
+ A cable Internet connection or DSL (digital subscriber line)
+ A working webcam

In the case that a participant does not have any of the above items, they will be provided by the study.