

# Primary Progressive Aphasia

Adults of any age can develop primary progressive aphasia (PPA), but it is more common in people under the age of 65. Individuals with PPA may have difficulties in word-finding, word usage, word order, word comprehension or word spelling. Other thinking skills (including memory for recent events, spatial orientation, recognizing faces and the essential features of personality) are initially preserved. The symptoms of PPA can cause limitations in professional, social and recreational activities that may affect one's overall quality of life.

PPA is caused by a neurodegenerative brain disease. Aphasias (language impairment) caused by head trauma, stroke or brain tumor do not qualify for a PPA diagnosis. PPA is diagnosed only if the underlying cause is a "neurodegenerative" disease that progresses over time.

**VISIT NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE'S NEUROBEHAVIOR AND MEMORY CLINIC  
([HTTPS://WWW.NM.ORG/CONDITIONS-AND-CARE-AREAS/NEUROSCIENCES/NEUROBEHAVIOR-AND-MEMORY-CLINIC](https://www.nm.org/conditions-and-care-areas/neurosciences/neurobehavior-and-memory-clinic))**

## Symptoms & Causes

Read a list of common symptoms and potential causes of PPA.

**[LEARN MORE \(SYMPTOMS-CAUSES.HTML\)](#)**

## Diagnosis

Find out what evaluations may be involved in making a diagnosis.

**[LEARN MORE \(DIAGNOSIS.HTML\)](#)**

## Care, Support & Treatment

Learn more about treatment options and explore our support services.

**[LEARN MORE \(TREATMENT.HTML\)](#)**

## Research



## Research Studies

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Those living with PPA should consider enrolling in a research program affiliated with the center. Browse our list of ongoing studies recruiting new participants.

**[ABOUT PPA RESEARCH \(RESEARCH.HTML\)](#)**

**[JOIN A STUDY \(../JOIN/INDEX.HTML\)](#)**

## Care & Support

[FTD/PPA Support Group](#)

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We offer a number of support programs and groups for individuals and families living with neurocognitive disease, including one specific to caregivers of people with PPA.

**[ABOUT THE GROUP \(../CARE-AND-SUPPORT/FTD-PPA-SUPPORT.HTML\)](#)**



## Events



Browse the calendar to learn about upcoming events associated with our center.

**[VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS \(../ABOUT/EVENTS/INDEX.HTML\)](#)**

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