

ABOUT US:

For 27 years, *The Center for Speech and Language Pathology, LLC* owned and operated by Josephine K. Chen, M.S., CCC-SLP, has served over 1,000 children and adults with communication impairments. With offices located in Greenwich and Norwalk, CT, Josephine and her team of speech-language pathologists offer comprehensive evaluations and up-to-date treatment services. Disorders such as articulation, apraxia, stuttering, myofunctional (oral phase of swallowing), voice, auditory language processing, expressive and receptive language, and memory/cognition are commonly treated.

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www.speechtherapyct.com
or
www.asha.org

Acquired Communication Disorders in Adults



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Greenwich and Norwalk
Connecticut

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WHAT IS A NEUROGENIC COMMUNICATION DISORDER?

Neuropathologies or brain trauma often result in language deficits. Some characteristics you may observe in your loved one may include: improper use of words and their meanings, the inability to express ideas, inappropriate grammatical patterns, reduced vocabulary, and the inability to follow directions. A person's cognition may also be impacted, which may cause difficulty with everyday thinking and executive functioning (e.g., sequencing typical daily routines). Although symptoms can vary, changes in awareness, perception, reasoning, memory and judgment are often observed.

Acquired neurogenic communication disorders can be attributed to: *Acute injury* (Traumatic Brain Injury, stroke, concussion); *Neurological disorders* (Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis); or *Normal aging*

Resulting disorders may include:

-Aphasia: Impairment in one's ability to produce and comprehend spoken language, as well as in one's capacity to read and write
-Motor Speech Disorder: Difficulty planning and coordinating motor movements for speech production, secondary to muscle weakness, paralysis, or incoordination (i.e., *Apraxia* or *Dysarthria*)
-Dysphagia: Swallowing disorder which can include impairment in the oral, pharyngeal, and/or esophageal phases of swallowing
-Cognitive-communication disorder: Deficits in verbal and non-verbal cognitive processes, including attention, memory, organization, problem-solving, executive functioning, and pragmatics

THE EVALUATION PROCESS:

Following a consultation with Josephine K. Chen, M.S., CCC-SLP, assessment procedures are chosen based on an individual's age and the nature of their disorder. Assessments may include clinical observations, as well as standardized and non-standardized evaluation tools. The results of the evaluation are shared and discussed with the patient and their caregiver, if applicable, as well as their referring physician. The therapist and patient then collaborate to develop an individualized Plan of Care outlining the course of treatment.

TREATMENT OF NEUROGENIC COMMUNICATION DISORDERS:

After the speech/language/cognitive evaluation is completed, a patient-centered plan of care is created.

Typically, therapeutic goals may include:

- Improving cognitive skills necessary to fully participate in activities of daily living (ADL), including: memory, sequencing, executive functioning, and following directions
- Improving language skills in the areas of vocabulary, word-finding, word meaning (semantics), and social skills (pragmatics)
- Improving planning, coordination, and sequencing of articulatory movement for speech sound production
- Training and use of Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) as needed
- Training family members and caregivers in communication strategies

OBTAINING SERVICES AT THIS CENTER:

Our offices are open Monday through Friday, with a wide variety of times available to suit every schedule. Our answering service is available 24 hours, Monday- Sunday. Call to schedule a consultation with Josephine K. Chen, M.S., CCC-SLP at (203) 869-8272.

HOW LONG ARE THERAPY SESSIONS?

The duration and frequency of treatment depends on the severity of the disorder, the age of the client, and associated physical, emotional and social factors. Treatment sessions are typically 30 minutes in duration and are recommended at least two times per week.

