tobii dynavox

Using Self-Captured Photographs to Support the Expressive Communication of People with Aphasia

Articles at a Glance · Pathways for Aphasia

Background Information

The purpose of this study was to analyze the performance of individuals with aphasia as they observed, captured photographs of, and later participated in a conversation with a novel communication partner about a series of demonstrated wellness activities.

This multiple case study design included five adults with chronic aphasia. The experimental task included two phases—image capture and conversational interaction.

- **Image capture** consisted of participants taking photographs of research team members while the members are exercising wellness activities. The participants were expected to take the photographs as they felt necessary to support their communication during the next portion of the study.

- **Conversational interaction** consisted of the participant conversing about the wellness activities, as well as using the pictures as a supplemental tool.

The research goal was twofold:
(a) to determine the number, content, and engagement patterns (i.e., camera- or task-engaged) of photographs taken by adults with aphasia when capturing images to support communication and

(b) to document how adults with aphasia use self-captured photographic images to support communication with an unfamiliar partner.

Key Findings

- Participants varied in number of photographs captured, spontaneous image use to support conversation, and success in relaying novel information to an unfamiliar partner.

- Participants who referenced photographs generated more content units with greater specificity than participants who did not reference photographs. Also, those referencing photographs talked more about the specified topic and made fewer off-topic or disability-related comments than those not referencing photographs.

Applying the Findings with Tobii Dynavox Aphasia Pages

- Photo Album and Camera: Both tools take and store photos of remnants (e.g. ticket, brochures, menus, daily or special events, etc.) directly from your device or tablet for use as Topic Pictures, photo albums, or pictures on buttons.

- Whiteboard: The Whiteboard is one of the most easily accessible communicative tools. Easily import a photograph or access the camera directly from the Whiteboard to take a photograph. Use the Whiteboard to draw and refer to the photograph to improve communication.