

Aphasia Friendly version of research info from Dr. Binder:

Why Aphasia Research Matters

Medical research has changed many lives.

Research has led to antibiotics, cancer treatments, and heart disease care.

Research is also helping people with **aphasia**.

Because of research, we now understand more about:

- How aphasia happens
- How the brain supports language
- How people can recover or improve communication
- How to improve quality of life

**The National Aphasia Association is currently working on a Core Impact Project that will help guide research to what really matters for those impacted by aphasia. See more on our Core Impact Project page: <https://aphasia.org/core-impact/> **

How Research Has Helped People with Aphasia

1. Understanding the Brain and Language

New brain scans, like MRI, help researchers see how language works in the brain.

This helps us learn:

- Which parts of the brain support speaking and understanding
- How the brain can change and heal after injury
- How therapy can support recovery

2. Better Diagnosis

No two people with aphasia are the same.

Research has helped create better tests that:

- Show each person's strengths and challenges

- Identify different types of aphasia
- Help speech-language pathologists plan better therapy

3. More Effective Therapy

Research shows that **intensive therapy** can help language recovery.

Intensive therapy means:

- Therapy every day
- More practice time

Researchers are still studying:

- How many hours work best
- How long therapy should last
- What works best for different types of aphasia

4. Brain Stimulation Research

Some studies use gentle brain stimulation to help the brain learn.

These methods:

- Do not require surgery
- Are used with language exercises
- Aim to help the brain make new connections

More research is needed to know:

- Who it helps most
- When to use it
- How to use it safely and effectively

5. Technology and Communication

New technology is helping people communicate in new ways.

Researchers are studying:

- Computer and AI (Artificial Intelligence) apps and tools
- Ways to turn brain signals into speech
- How technology might help people with severe communication challenges

This research is still early, but it is promising.

6. Improving Quality of Life

Not all research focuses only on speech recovery.

Some research focuses on:

- Communication tools and apps
- Social connection and community programs
- Music and art
- Training for family members and caregivers
- Emotional health and confidence

These approaches can:

- Improve communication
- Reduce depression and anxiety
- Help people feel more connected and confident

Why More Research Is Needed

Aphasia is common and life-changing.

But aphasia research does not receive enough funding.

More awareness and advocacy are needed.

How You Can Support Aphasia Research

You can help in many ways:

- **Donate** to the National Aphasia Association: aphasia.org/ways-to-donate
- **Volunteer** for aphasia research studies
- **Share information** about aphasia in your community
- **Advocate** for more research funding with local and federal leaders

Every action helps move aphasia research forward.

The NAA thanks you for being a changemaker, an advocate and a supporter!