



# NSW Speech Pathology Evidence Based Practice Interest Group

## Critically Appraised Topic (CAT)

### CLINICAL BOTTOM LINE:

Repetition therapy improves word finding difficulties for some people with aphasia but not all.

### Background and Objectives:

Repetition therapy is a common approach to treating word finding difficulties but is it effective?

### Clinical Question [patient/problem, intervention, (comparison), outcome]:

Is repetition therapy effective in improving lexical access/word finding difficulties (in people with aphasia)?

### Search Terms/Systems:

Terms: Speech and language therapy, Repetition, Aphasia, Word-finding  
Systems: OVID, Medline, PsychInfo, Google Scholar)

**Selection Criteria:** Publications which examined repetition therapy in people with aphasia. 4 publications were included all of which had NH&MRC level of evidence IV.

### Results:

- Effectiveness of repetition therapy depends on the person's co-occurring impairments, severity and whether impairment is acute or chronic
- The method of repetition (ie errorless or errorful) may also have an impact on the effectiveness of repetition therapy
- Evidence from the CATs suggests that it is possible to gain some long term benefit (5-12 weeks) from repetition therapy
- Further research is needed regarding effectiveness of repetition therapy

### References:

- Fillingham JK, Sage K, Ralph MAL (2005). Further explorations and an overview of errorless and errorful therapy for aphasic word-finding difficulties: The number of naming attempts during therapy affects outcome. *Aphasiology*. 19(7): 597-614
- Basso A, Marangola P, Piras F and Galluzi C (2001). Acquisition of new "words" in normal subjects: A suggestion for the treatment of anomia. *Brain and Language*. 77, 45-49.
- Sugushita M, Seki K, Kabe S, Yunoki K (1993). A material-control single-case study of the efficacy of treatment for written and oral naming difficulties, *Neuropsychologica*. 31(6):559-569.
- Martin N, Fink R, Laine M and Ayala J (2004). Immediate and short term effects of contextual priming on word retrieval in aphasia. *Aphasiology*. 18(10), 867-898.

**Appraised By: Adult Language EBP Group**  
**Clinical Group:**

**Date: December 2007**