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Dr. Jamie Azios and Ashtyn Jones OUR Project Final Narrative

Aphasia affects a large population of people who have had a stroke. Significant others are typically the primary communication partner for people with aphasia (PWA) it is important that there are resources for the significant others of PWA because they are the biggest advocates for their spouse's. Our research was developed to determine the feasibility, usability, and acceptability of an internet-based partner training program for significant others of PWA.

Our research began by conducting a focus group of spouses of PWA. The spouses had all gone through and completed the online partner training program (conversation connections). We then used the transcription of this focus group to code and match the focus group to our preset constructs of feasibility and usability. After comparing the focus group to our constructs, I went through and coded the data. For feasibility we were determining the acceptability, demand, implementation, and practicality of the program for spouses of PWA. For our constructs of usability, we were determining the efficiency, effectiveness, and satisfaction for spouses of PWA.

Results have shown spouses of PWA agreed that the content of the program was appropriate and that it prompted a change in their behavior toward their partner with aphasia. Significant others also discussed positive effects including establishing hope and mitigating frustration. Internet based programs such as the one researched here (Conversation Connections) have shown acceptable feasibility and usability and will be appropriate to supplement programs. We believe future studies are needed on these programs to investigate the effects of internet-based programs for spouses of PWA.