

# Logopenic Variant PPA



## Know the Signs ... Know the Symptoms

FTD syndromes characterized predominantly by the gradual loss of the ability to speak, read, write or understand what others are saying fall under the category of primary progressive aphasia, or PPA. Experts further subdivide PPA into three clinical subtypes based on the specific language skills that are most affected.

People with logopenic variant PPA (lvPPA, also known as PPA-L) have difficulty finding words when they are speaking. As a result, they may speak slowly and hesitate frequently as they search for the right word.

Unlike people with the semantic variant of primary progressive aphasia, however, they are still able to recall the meanings of words. Unlike people with agrammatic PPA, speech can be perfectly fluent during small talk but then becomes hesitant and halting when the person needs to be specific or use a more unfamiliar word.

Speech is usually not effortful or distorted. The lvPPA form of primary progressive aphasia is also characterized by a narrow attention span for words that compromise the ability to repeat phrases and sentences. As the disease progresses, affected individuals may develop problems comprehending complex sentences. **The following are possible symptoms of lvPPA:**

SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE SIGNS
<p><b>Impaired single-word retrieval</b></p> <p>Difficulty finding the right word while speaking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pauses and hesitations due to time needed for word retrieval</li><li>• Extended description (circumlocution) may be substituted for a forgotten word</li></ul>
<p><b>Impaired repetition of phrases and sentences</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More difficulty with longer phrases and sentences</li></ul>
<p><b>Phonological speech errors</b></p> <p>Mistakes in speech sounds, including omissions and substitutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Substitutes sounds made with the tip of the tongue such as “t” or “d” for sounds made near the throat such as “k” or “g”: “tup” instead of “cup” or “dap” instead of “gap”</li><li>• Omits final consonants: “slee” instead of “sleep”</li></ul>

# Logopenic Variant PPA

SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE SIGNS
<p><b>Phonological paraphasias</b></p> <p>Substitution of a non-word with some of the same sounds for a legitimate word</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For example, the person affected may say “lelephone” for “telephone.”</li></ul>
<p><b>Poor comprehension of complex sentences</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Single-word comprehension is spared.</li></ul>
<p><b>Difficulty swallowing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May develop later in the disease.</li></ul>

Doctors will consider a diagnosis of lvPPA based on the following combination of symptoms: impaired single-word retrieval in spontaneous speech; impaired repetition of phrases and sentences; and at least three of the following: Phonological speech errors; Single-word comprehension and object knowledge unaffected; Physical ability to form words (motor speech) unaffected; and simple but correct grammar.

If you have concern that you or a loved one may have been misdiagnosed with another condition—or about any of the signs and symptoms listed above—it is important to consult a doctor.

**If you're facing this diagnosis—or if you have questions—contact AFTD for help and support.**

