

DIAGNOSTIC CHECKLIST

Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)



FOR YOU: Problems with speaking, understanding, reading, or writing

Check off each symptom that you or a loved one have experienced. Bring this form to your next appointment with a health care provider or ask if they would like to review it ahead of your visit.

SLOW, LABORED SPEECH

- Difficulty moving lips and tongue to speak (resulting in slow, labored speech and slurring)
- Omitting words when forming a sentence, especially short connecting words (i.e., "to", "from", "the", "and")
- Ordering words incorrectly in sentences; using wrong word endings, verb tenses, or pronouns
- Pauses and hesitations in speaking and extensive descriptions to explain missing words
- Uncharacteristically speaking in shorter, simpler sentences
- Replacing nouns with empty words such as "thing"
- Issues understanding complex sentences
- Mistakes in speech sounds, such as omitting or substituting certain sounds (for example: substituting a "t" sound for a "g" sound; saying "tas" instead of "gas")

DIFFICULTY NAMING PEOPLE AND OBJECTS

- Trouble recalling the names of objects (this can also include substituting a name with another similar word, like using "car" instead of "truck.")
- Speaking easily but not making sense to listener
- Not able to identify names of familiar objects
- Not able to identify how a familiar object is used
- Difficulties reading and writing words that are not pronounced how they are spelled (such as writing "no" in place of "know")



If you want to learn more about PPA, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit theaftd.org/what-is-ftd/primary-progressive-aphasia/

#AskAboutAFTD

FOR YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER: Diagnosing PPA

Diagnostic criteria for PPA is below. Referral to a neurologist specializing in cognition and behavior and/or a geriatric neuropsychologist is recommended for a differential diagnosis. ICD 10 = G31.01 for primary progressive aphasia.

For more diagnostic guidance, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit theaftd.org/for-health-professionals/diagnosing-ftd/



1. Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria for PPA Diagnosis – Individuals meeting criteria may be further tested to diagnose a specific variant of PPA.

<p>Inclusion criteria <i>(all criteria must be positive)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gradual progressive language difficulty <input type="checkbox"/> Most prominent clinical feature is language difficulty <input type="checkbox"/> Language deficits are the principal cause of impaired daily living activities <input type="checkbox"/> Aphasia is the most prominent deficit at symptom onset and during initial stages
<p>Exclusion criteria <i>(all criteria must be negative)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pattern of deficits is better accounted for by other nondegenerative nervous or medical disorders <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive disturbance is better accounted for by a psychiatric diagnosis <input type="checkbox"/> Prominent initial visuo-perceptual, visual memory, and episodic memory impairments <input type="checkbox"/> Prominent initial behavior disturbances

2. Clinical Diagnosis of PPA Variants

<p>Nonfluent/Aggrammatic PPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aggrammatism in language production <input type="checkbox"/> Effortful and halting speech, inconsistent speech sound errors (verbal apraxia) <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired comprehension of syntactically complex sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Spared single-word comprehension <input type="checkbox"/> Spared object knowledge
<p>Logopenic PPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired single-word retrieval in spontaneous speech and naming <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired repetition of sentences and phrases <input type="checkbox"/> Phonological errors in spontaneous speech and naming <input type="checkbox"/> Spared single-word comprehension and object knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Spared motor speech <input type="checkbox"/> Absence of frank agrammatism
<p>Semantic variant PPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired confrontation naming <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired single-word comprehension <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired object knowledge, especially for low-frequency or low-familiarity items <input type="checkbox"/> Surface dyslexia or dysgraphia <input type="checkbox"/> Spared repetition <input type="checkbox"/> Spared speech production

3. Imaging-Supported Diagnosis of PPA Variants – One of the imaging criteria must be seen in addition to a clinical diagnosis.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meets criteria for PPA <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits significant functional decline (verified by a care partner, or by scores from Clinical Dementia Rating Scale or Functional Activities Questionnaire) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Brain imaging results that present features of bvFTD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontal and/or anterior temporal atrophy present in MRI or CT imaging; or • Frontal and/or anterior temporal hypoperfusion or hypometabolism present in PET or SPECT imaging |
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4. PPA Variant Diagnosis with Definite Pathology – For all variants of PPA, one of the two accompanying pathological criteria must be met in addition to a clinical diagnosis.

- Presence of a known pathogenic mutation
- Histopathologic evidence of a specific neurodegenerative pathology (frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) or Alzheimer's disease (AD))