

# Le parole e la memoria: la dissoluzione del linguaggio nelle demenze



# Disturbi del linguaggio

- Malattia di Alzheimer
- Afasie Primarie Progressive

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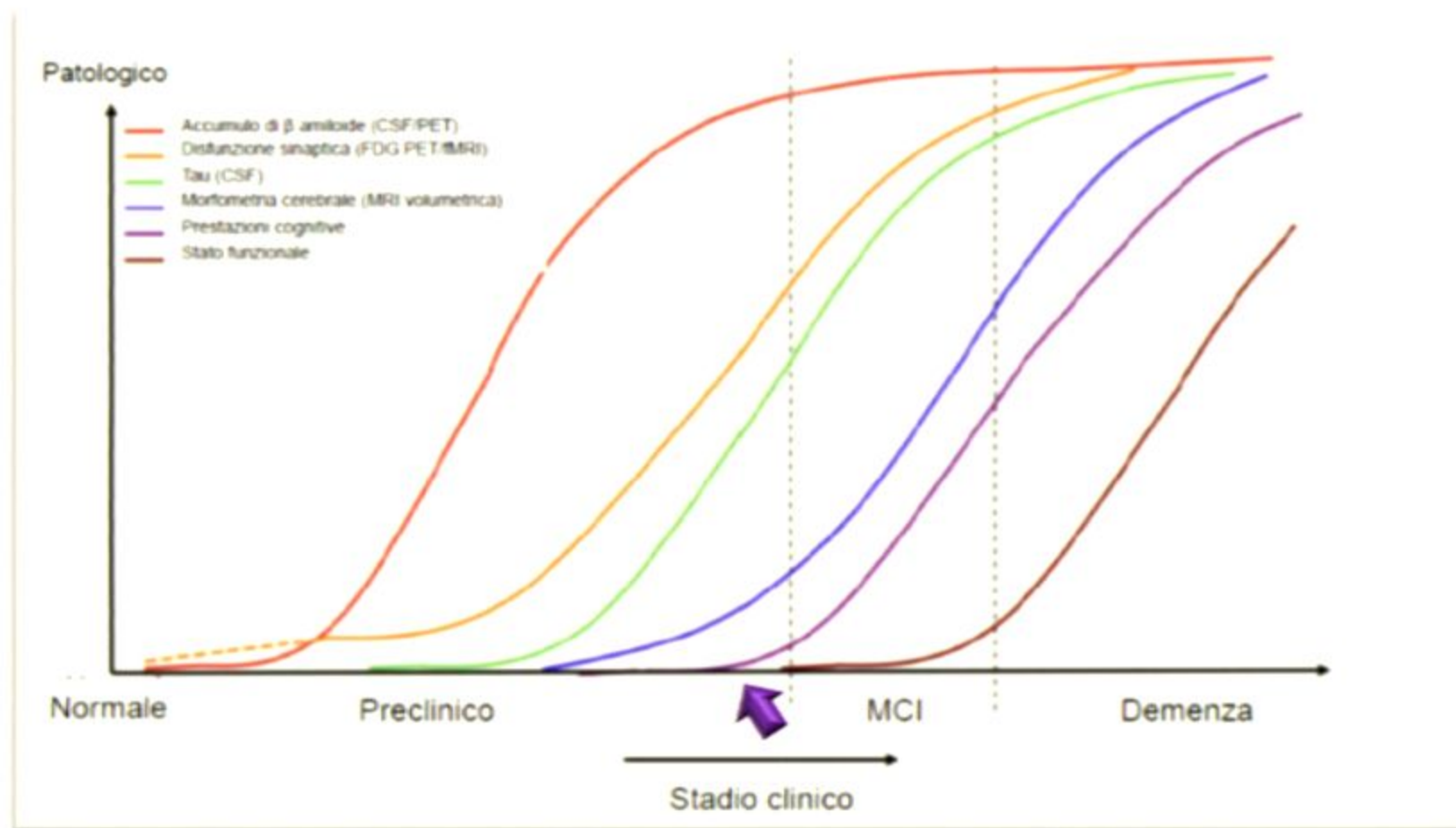
## Alzheimer's disease

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DSM-5	<p>Causative AD genetic mutation or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Memory and learning decline plus one other cognitive domain</li><li>- Steady gradual cognitive decline</li><li>- No evidence of mixed aetiology (absence of other neurodegenerative or cerebrovascular disease or other condition contributing to cognitive decline)</li></ul>
IWG-2	<p>Episodic memory impairment and one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Decreased <math>A\beta_{42}</math> plus increased P-tau or T-tau in CSF</li><li>- Increased tracer retention on amyloid PET</li><li>- Autosomal dominant mutation</li></ul> <p>Exclusions include cerebrovascular disease and signs and symptoms of DLB</p>

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# Evoluzione temporale dei markers di malattia nella M. di Alzheimer



## Advancing research diagnostic criteria for Alzheimer's disease: the IWG-2 criteria

Bruno Dubois, Howard H Feldman, Claudia Jacova, Harald Hampel, José Luis Molinuevo, Kaj Blennow, Steven T DeKosky, Serge Gauthier, Dennis Selkoe, Randall Bateman, Stefano Cappa, Sebastian Crutch, Sebastiaan Engelborghs, Giovanni B Frisoni, Nick C Fox, Douglas Galasko, Marie-Odile Habert, Gregory A Jicha, Agneta Nordberg, Florence Pasquier, Gil Rabinovici, Philippe Robert, Christopher Rowe, Stephen Salloway, Marie Sarazin, Stéphane Epelbaum, Leonardo C de Souza, Bruno Vellas, Pieter J Visser, Lon Schneider, Yaakov Stern, Philip Scheltens, Jeffrey L Cummings

### A Specific clinical phenotype

- Presence of an early and significant episodic memory impairment (isolated or associated with other cognitive or behavioural changes that are suggestive of a mild ~~cognitive impairment or of a dementia syndrome~~) that includes the following features:
  - Gradual and progressive change in memory function reported by patient or informant over more than 6 months
  - Objective evidence of an amnesic syndrome of the hippocampal type,\* based on significantly impaired performance on an episodic memory test with established specificity for AD, such as cued recall with control of encoding test

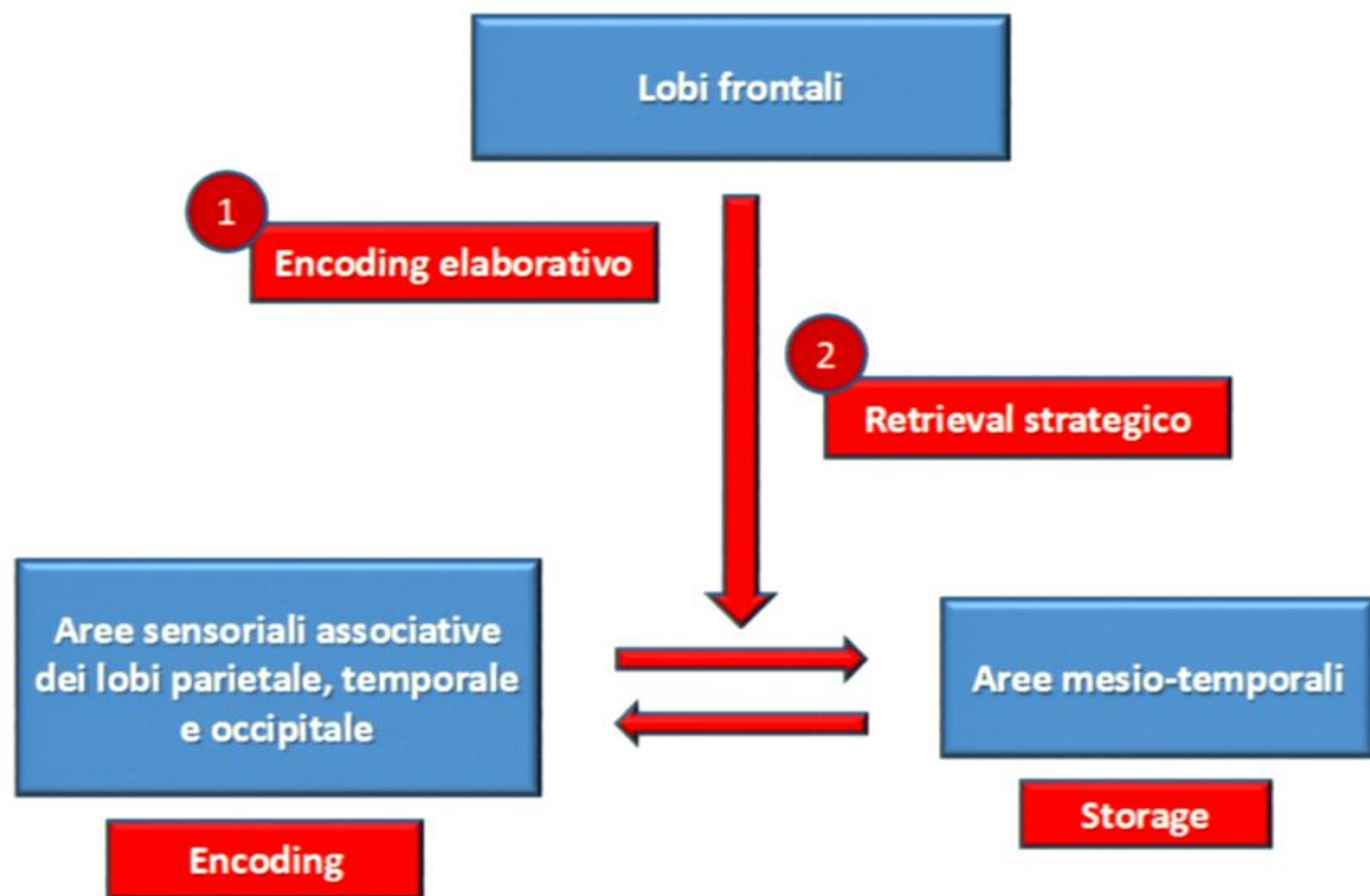
## Advancing research diagnostic criteria for Alzheimer's disease: the IWG-2 criteria

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# Aree corticali coinvolte nel funzionamento della memoria a lungo termine dichiarativa



**Amnesia "mesio-temporale"**



**Consolidamento  
deficitario della  
traccia mnesica**



**Nessun (o scarso) miglioramento  
dalla disponibilità di facilitazioni  
di richiamo anche dopo aver  
controllato per i processi di  
codifica**

**Amnesia "frontale"**



**Deficit di  
codifica e/o di  
richiamo  
strategico**



**Miglioramento significativo (o  
anche normalizzazione) dalla  
disponibilità di facilitazioni di  
richiamo dopo aver controllato  
per i processi di codifica**



Neurol Sci

DOI 10.1007/s10072-011-0607-3

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Free and cued selective reminding test: an Italian normative study

P. Frasson · R. Ghirelli · E. Catricalà · S. Pomati ·  
A. Marcone · L. Parisi · P. M. Rossini · S. F. Cappa ·  
C. Mariani · N. Vanacore · F. Clerici

Received: 12 January 2011 / Accepted: 23 April 2011

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## The Neuropsychological Profile of Alzheimer Disease

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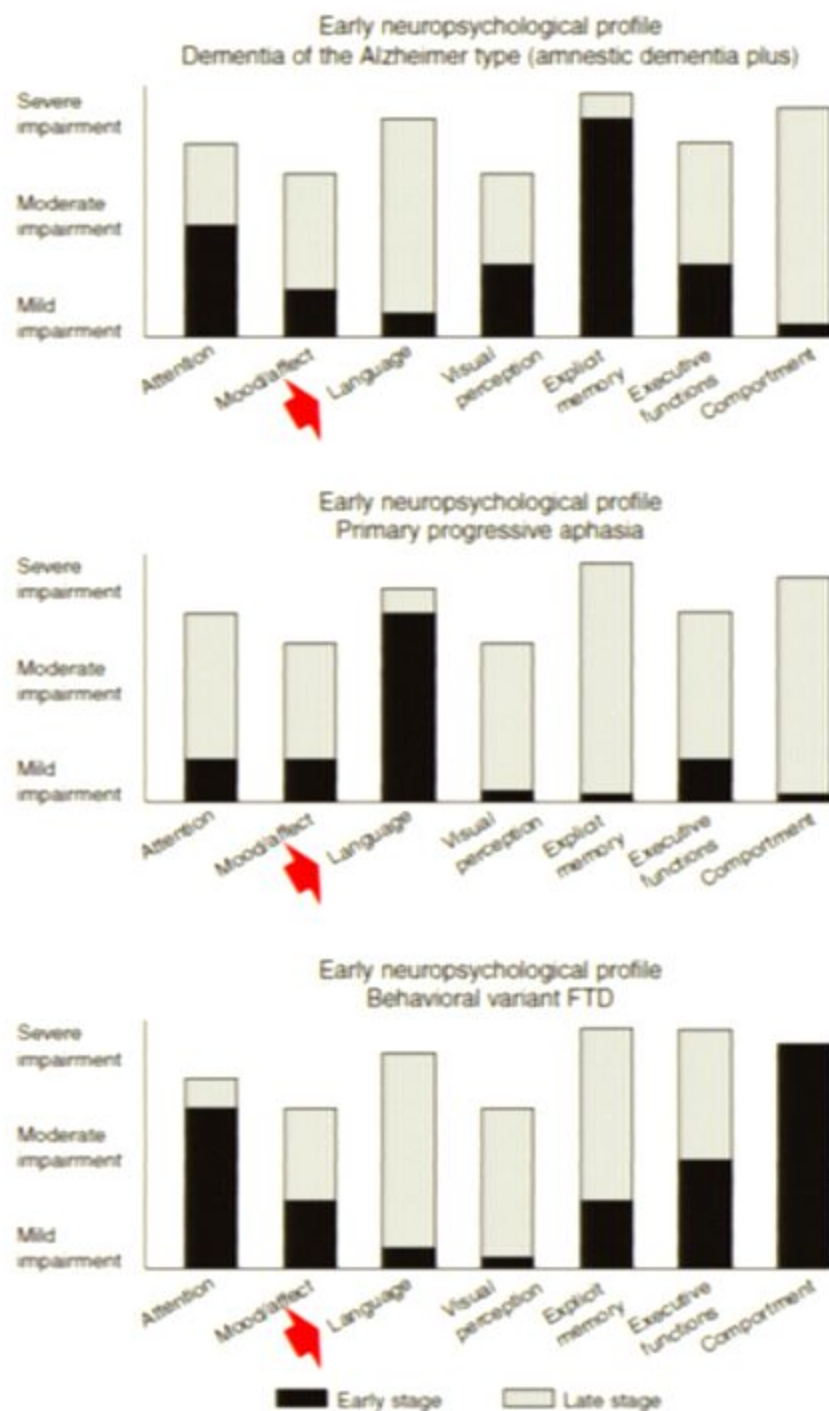
Correspondence: [sweintraub@northwestern.edu](mailto:sweintraub@northwestern.edu)

Editors: Dennis J. Selkoe, Richard Mayeux, and David M. Holtzman

Additional Perspectives on The Biology of Alzheimer Disease available at [www.perspectivesonmedicine.org](http://www.perspectivesonmedicine.org)

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## Speaking in Alzheimer's disease, is that an early sign? Importance of changes in language abilities in Alzheimer's disease

Greta Szatlovicz<sup>1\*</sup>, Balázs Hoffmann<sup>2\*</sup>, Veronika Vincze<sup>3</sup>, János Katmar<sup>4</sup> and Magdolna Pécsi<sup>5\*</sup>

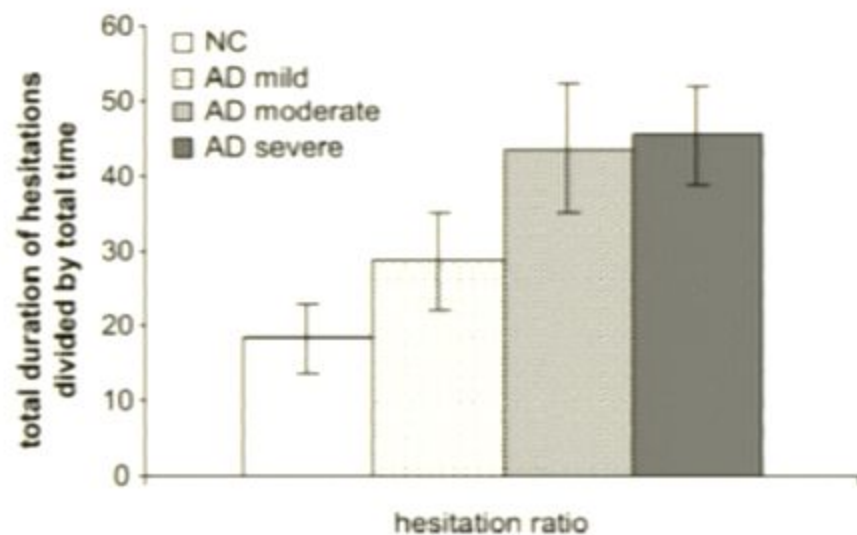
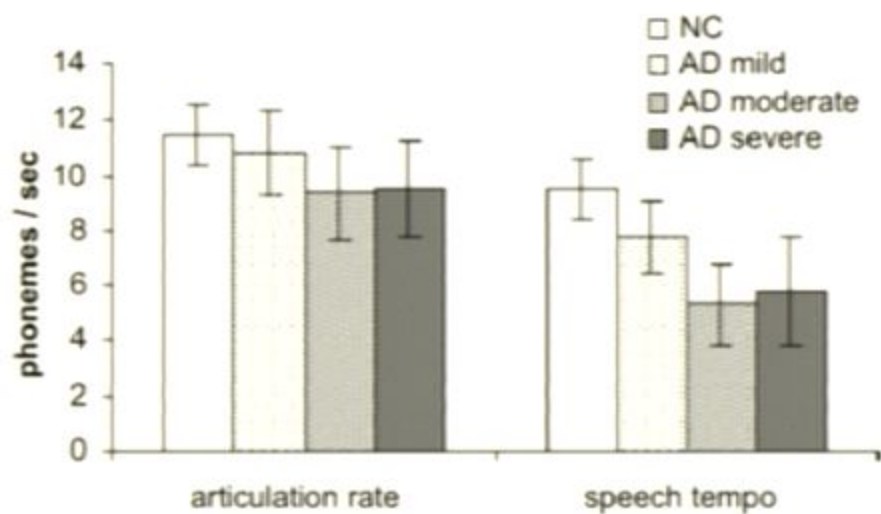
<sup>1</sup>Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Szeged, Hungary; <sup>2</sup>Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary; <sup>3</sup>Department of Linguistics, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary; <sup>4</sup>ITM-LTI Research Group in Artificial Intelligence, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

Examination methods	Examination results	Sensitivity measures	Reference
<b>Phonetics and phonology</b>			
Temporal analysis of spontaneous speech	Mild AD and CTRL differ in speech tempo and hesitation ratio	No data	Hoffmann et al. (2010)
Temporal analysis of speech, oral reading task	Distinguishes moderate AD and CTRL. Best two parameters: speech tempo and articulation tempo	80%	Martinez-Sánchez et al. (2013)
Spoken task; speech-based detection	Might be a good method for detecting early AD	CTRL and MCI: 80% MCI and AD: 87%	Satt et al. (2014)
Automatic spontaneous speech analysis	Distinguishes between AD and CTRL	No data	López-de-Ipiña et al. (2013)

## Temporal parameters of spontaneous speech in Alzheimer's disease

ILDIKÓ HOFFMANN<sup>1</sup>, DEZSO NEMETH<sup>1,2</sup>, CRISTINA D. DYE<sup>2</sup>, MAGDOLNA PAKASKI<sup>1</sup>, TAMAS IRENYI<sup>1</sup>, & JANOS KALMAN<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary, and <sup>2</sup>Georgetown University, USA





## Speaking in Alzheimer's disease, is that an early sign? Importance of changes in language abilities in Alzheimer's disease

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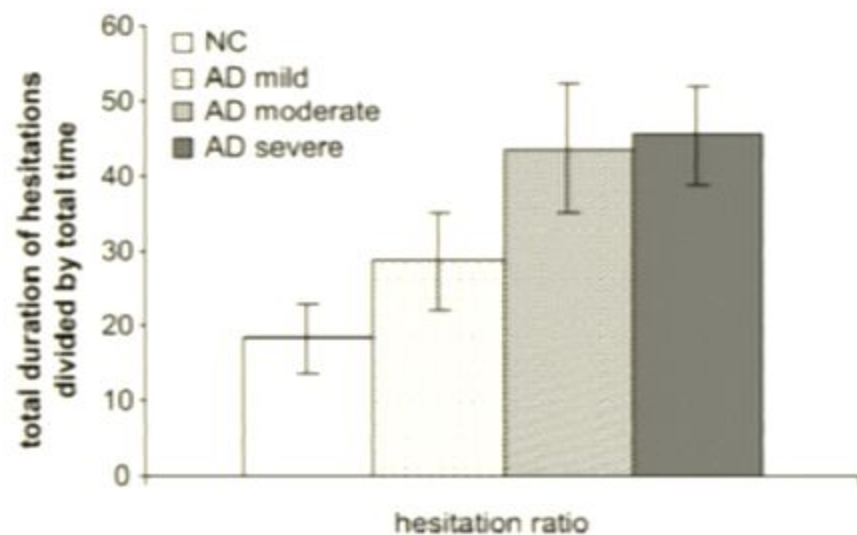
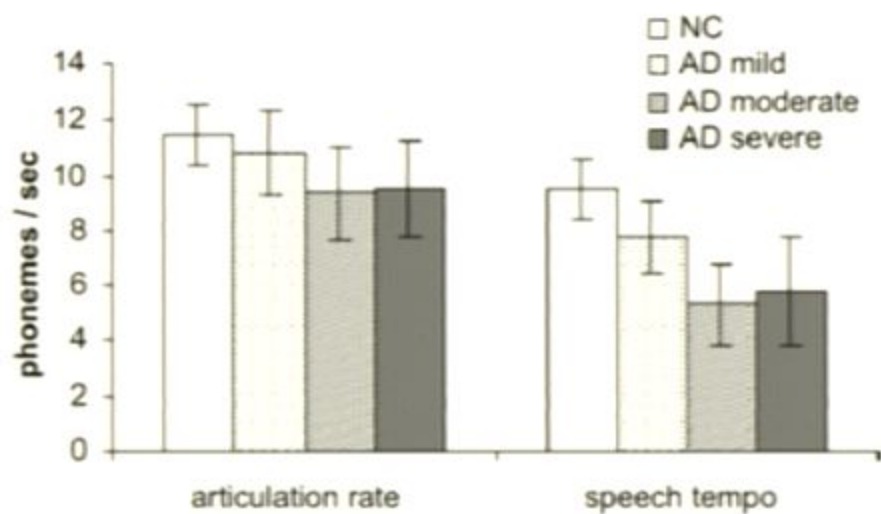
<sup>1</sup>Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Szeged, Hungary; <sup>2</sup>Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary; <sup>3</sup>Department of Linguistics, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary; <sup>4</sup>ITM LTI Research Group in Artificial Intelligence, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

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<sup>1</sup>University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary, and <sup>2</sup>Georgetown University, USA



## On the Selection of Non-Invasive Methods Based on Speech Analysis Oriented to Automatic Alzheimer Disease Diagnosis

Karmelo López de Iturró <sup>†</sup>, Jesús Benavides-Arrese <sup>†</sup>, Carlos Manuel Treviño <sup>†</sup>,  
Jordi Solís-Casals <sup>†</sup>, Bárbara Egriosa <sup>†</sup>, Marcos Fernández-Zamora <sup>†</sup>, Alond Estrella <sup>†</sup>,  
Nora Barreira <sup>†</sup>, Miriam León-Torres <sup>†</sup>, Pablo Martínez-Lago <sup>†</sup> and Uxue Martínez de Lizarbe <sup>†</sup>

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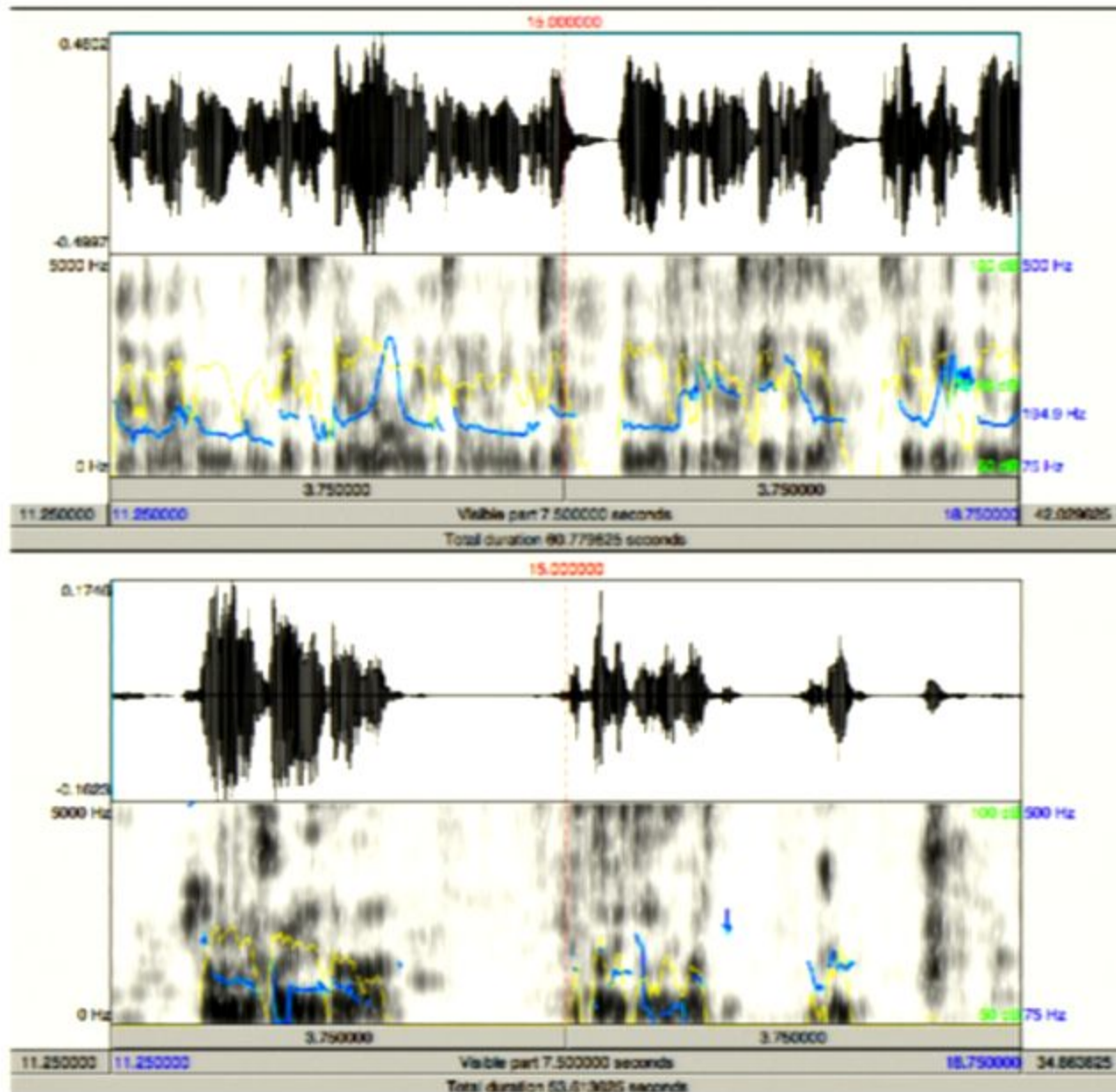
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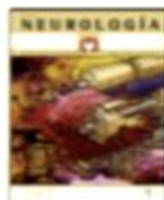
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**Figure 1.** Signal and spectrogram of a control subject (Top) and an AD subject (Bottom) during spontaneous speech (pitch in blue, intensity in yellow).





## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Oral reading fluency analysis in patients with Alzheimer disease and asymptomatic control subjects<sup>☆</sup>

F. Martínez-Sánchez<sup>☆,\*</sup>, J.J.G. Meilán<sup>♯</sup>, J. García-Sevilla<sup>♯</sup>, J. Carro<sup>♯</sup>, J.M. Arana<sup>♯</sup>

<sup>☆</sup> Departamento de Psicología Básica y Metodología, Facultad de Psicología, Universidad de Murcia, Murcia, Spain

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Measurement	Description
Duration	Total duration of reading task including pauses (seconds)
Number of pauses	Number of intersyllabic pauses >250 ms ( <i>n</i> )
Pause proportion	Pause time compared to total reading time (%)
Phonation time	Intra- and intersyllabic nuclei times without pauses (seconds)
Phonation proportion	Phonation time compared to total reading time (%)
Speech rate	Number of syllables/total reading time without pauses (syllables/second)
Articulation rate	Number of syllables/phonation time without pauses (syllables/second)

**Table 1** Demographic information, descriptive statistics, and comparison of means of study variables between both groups.

Dependent variables	Group		<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
	Alzheimer (TD)	Control (TD)		
Age	80.17 (7.43)	76.31 (12.25)	1.69	.096
Years of education	7.37 (4.78)	9.42 (4.65)	-1.64	.105
MMSE	16.29 (7.42)	26.21 (3.80)	6.78	.000
<b>Reading fluency</b>				
Duration	76.61 (48.96)	46.02 (21.08)	-3.39	.001
Number of pauses	33.26 (24.49)	16.51 (12.01)	-3.60	.001
Pause proportion	51.80 (14.99)	34.40 (14.65)	-5.22	.000
Phonation time	43.54 (18.96)	34.36 (12.21)	-2.40	.019
Phonation time	48.19 (14.99)	66.37 (14.08)	5.22	.000
Speech rate	2.63 (0.75)	3.48 (0.73)	4.80	.000
Speech rate	4.16 (±0.49)	4.41 (±0.44)	2.24	.028



# Speech-Based Automatic and Robust Detection of Very Early Dementia

*Aharon Satt*<sup>1</sup>, *Ron Hoory*<sup>1</sup>, *Alexandra König*<sup>2,4</sup>, *Pauline Aalten*<sup>4</sup>, *Philippe H Robert*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, France

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Conference Paper · May 2014

Task	Description
1. Countdown	Count backwards from 305 down to 285
2. Picture description	Look at a picture and describe it as detailed as you can in one minute
3. Sentence repeating	Repeat ten short sentences after the clinician (one at a time)
4. Semantic fluency (animals)	Name as many animals as you can think of as quickly as possible, in one minute



## Speaking in Alzheimer's disease, is that an early sign? Importance of changes in language abilities in Alzheimer's disease

Greta Szatmari<sup>1\*</sup>, Balázs Hoffmann<sup>2\*</sup>, Veronika Vincze<sup>3</sup>, János Kalmár<sup>4</sup> and Magdolna Pécsi<sup>5\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Szeged, Hungary; <sup>2</sup>Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary; <sup>3</sup>Department of Linguistics, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary; <sup>4</sup>MTA SZTAKI Research Group on Artificial Intelligence, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

Examination methods	Examination results	Sensitivity measures	Reference
<b>Lexicon, semantics and pragmatics</b>			
Semantic association test	AD performs significantly worse than CTRL	No data	Visch-Brink et al. (2004)
Semantic verbal fluency and phonological verbal fluency	Good tool for diagnosis of early AD	No data	Laws et al. (2010)
Picture naming, semantic probes, lexical decision and priming, Stroop-picture naming	AD group was impaired in semantic tasks	No data	Duong et al. (2006)
Verbal task	AD group produces shorter texts, less relevant information and multiple error types than CTRL	No data	Taler and Phillips (2008)



## Speaking in Alzheimer's disease, is that an early sign? Importance of changes in language abilities in Alzheimer's disease

Oliver Sifvaner<sup>1\*</sup>, Boris Hoffmann<sup>2†</sup>, Alexandra Müller<sup>3</sup>, Janina Rohrer<sup>4</sup> and Margoline Perleke<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany, <sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany, <sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany, <sup>4</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany, <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany

### Language characteristic changes

#### Phonetics-phonology

Temporal changes in spontaneous speech (increasing hesitation number and time)  
Phonemic paraphasia

#### Lexical-semantic

Word-finding and word retrieval difficulties  
  
Verbal fluency difficulties  
Phonemic (letter)  
Semantic  
Semantic paraphasia

#### SYNTAX

Reduced syntactic complexity

Agrammatisms

#### DISCOURSE-PRAGMATICS

Reduction in productive and receptive discourse-level processing

	MCI	Mild AD	Moderate AD	Severe AD
Temporal changes in spontaneous speech (increasing hesitation number and time)	+	+	++	+++
Phonemic paraphasia	+	+	++	+++
Word-finding and word retrieval difficulties	+	+	++	+++
Verbal fluency difficulties	+	+	++	+++
Phonemic (letter)	+	+	++	+++
Semantic	+	+	++	+++
Semantic paraphasia	?	+	++	+++
Reduced syntactic complexity	-	-	+	+++
Agrammatisms	-	-	-	+++
Reduction in productive and receptive discourse-level processing	-/+	+	++	+++

# Disturbi del linguaggio

- Malattia di Alzheimer
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# Classification of primary progressive aphasia and its variants



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B.F. Boeve, MD  
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K. Rascovsky, PhD  
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J.R. Hodges, MD\*  
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M. Grossman, MD\*

## ABSTRACT

This article provides a classification of primary progressive aphasia (PPA) and its 3 main variants to improve the uniformity of case reporting and the reliability of research results. Criteria for the 3 variants of PPA—nonfluent/agrammatic, semantic, and logopenic—were developed by an international group of PPA investigators who convened on 3 occasions to operationalize earlier published clinical descriptions for PPA subtypes. Patients are first diagnosed with PPA and are then divided into clinical variants based on specific speech and language features characteristic of each subtype. Classification can then be further specified as “imaging-supported” if the expected pattern of atrophy is found and “with definite pathology” if pathologic or genetic data are available. The working recommendations are presented in lists of features, and suggested assessment tasks are also provided. These recommendations have been widely agreed upon by a large group of experts and should be used to ensure consistency of PPA classification in future studies. Future collaborations will collect prospective data to identify relationships between each of these syndromes and specific biomarkers for a more detailed understanding of clinicopathologic correlations. *Neurology*® 2011;76:1006-1014

# Classification of primary progressive aphasia and its variants



**Table 1** Inclusion and exclusion criteria for the diagnosis of PPA: Based on criteria by Mesulam<sup>32</sup>

**Inclusion: criteria 1-3 must be answered positively**

1. Most prominent clinical feature is difficulty with language
2. These deficits are the principal cause of impaired daily living activities
3. Aphasia should be the most prominent deficit at symptom onset and for the initial phases of the disease

**Exclusion: criteria 1-4 must be answered negatively for a PPA diagnosis**

1. Pattern of deficits is better accounted for by other nondegenerative nervous system or medical disorders
2. Cognitive disturbance is better accounted for by a psychiatric diagnosis
3. Prominent initial episodic memory, visual memory, and visuo-perceptual impairments
4. Prominent, initial behavioral disturbance

Abbreviation: PPA = primary progressive aphasia.

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 M. Grossman, MD\*

## ABSTRACT

This article reviews the classification of primary progressive aphasia (PPA) and its variants. The classification is based on clinical and instrumental criteria. The classification is divided into three subtypes: semantic dementia, nonfluent/agrammatic variant, and logopenic variant. The classification is based on the pattern of deficits and the course of the disease. The classification is based on the pattern of deficits and the course of the disease. The classification is based on the pattern of deficits and the course of the disease.

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**Table 2** Diagnostic features for the nonfluent/agrammatic variant PPA

**I. Clinical diagnosis of nonfluent/agrammatic variant PPA**

At least one of the following core features must be present:

1. Agrammatism in language production
2. Effortful, halting speech with inconsistent speech sound errors and distortions (apraxia of speech)

At least 2 of 3 of the following other features must be present:

1. Impaired comprehension of syntactically complex sentences
2. Sparing single-word comprehension
3. Sparing object knowledge

**II. Imaging-supported nonfluent/agrammatic variant diagnosis**

Both of the following criteria must be present:

1. Clinical diagnosis of nonfluent/agrammatic variant PPA
2. Imaging must show one or more of the following results:
  - a. Predominant left posterior fronto-insular atrophy on MRI or
  - b. Predominant left posterior fronto-insular hypoperfusion or hypometabolism on SPECT or PET

**III. Nonfluent/agrammatic variant PPA with definite pathology**

Clinical diagnosis (criterion 1 below) and either criterion 2 or 3 must be present:

1. Clinical diagnosis of nonfluent/agrammatic variant PPA
2. Histopathologic evidence of a specific neurodegenerative pathology (e.g., FTLD-tau, FTLD-TDP, AD, other)
3. Presence of a known pathogenic mutation

Abbreviations: AD = Alzheimer disease; FTLD = frontotemporal lobar degeneration; PPA = primary progressive aphasia.

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**Table 3** Diagnostic criteria for the semantic variant PPA

**I. Clinical diagnosis of semantic variant PPA**

Both of the following core features must be present:

1. Impaired confrontation naming
2. Impaired single-word comprehension

At least 3 of the following other diagnostic features must be present:

1. Impaired object knowledge, particularly for low-frequency or low-familiarity items
2. Surface dyslexia or dysgraphia
3. Spared repetition
4. Spared speech production (grammar and motor speech)

**II. Imaging-supported semantic variant PPA diagnosis**

Both of the following criteria must be present:

1. Clinical diagnosis of semantic variant PPA
2. Imaging must show one or more of the following results:
  - a. Predominant anterior temporal lobe atrophy
  - b. Predominant anterior temporal hypoperfusion or hypometabolism on SPECT or PET

**III. Semantic variant PPA with definite pathology**

Clinical diagnosis (criterion 1 below) and either criterion 2 or 3 must be present:

1. Clinical diagnosis of semantic variant PPA
2. Histopathologic evidence of a specific neurodegenerative pathology (e.g., FTLD-tau, FTLD-TDP, AD, other)
3. Presence of a known pathogenic mutation

Abbreviations: AD = Alzheimer disease; FTLD = frontotemporal lobar degeneration; PPA = primary progressive aphasia.

**Table 4** Diagnostic criteria for logopenic variant PPA

**I. Clinical diagnosis of logopenic variant PPA**

Both of the following core features must be present:

1. Impaired single-word retrieval in spontaneous speech and naming
2. Impaired repetition of sentences and phrases

At least 3 of the following other features must be present:

1. Speech (phonologic) errors in spontaneous speech and naming
2. Spared single-word comprehension and object knowledge
3. Spared motor speech
4. Absence of frank agrammatism

**II. Imaging-supported logopenic variant diagnosis**

Both criteria must be present:

1. Clinical diagnosis of logopenic variant PPA
2. Imaging must show at least one of the following results:
  - a. Predominant left posterior perisylvian or parietal atrophy on MRI
  - b. Predominant left posterior perisylvian or parietal hypoperfusion or hypometabolism on SPECT or PET

**III. Logopenic variant PPA with definite pathology**

Clinical diagnosis (criterion 1 below) and either criterion 2 or 3 must be present:

1. Clinical diagnosis of logopenic variant PPA
2. Histopathologic evidence of a specific neurodegenerative pathology (e.g., AD, FTLD-tau, FTLD-TDP, other)
3. Presence of a known pathogenic mutation

Abbreviations: AD = Alzheimer disease; FTLD = frontotemporal lobar degeneration; PPA = primary progressive aphasia.



**Table 5** Tasks that may be used to assess speech and language functions in PPA

Speech/language function	Task	Behavioral measures	Variant in which impaired
<b>Speech production</b>			
<b>Grammar</b>	Picture description task; story retelling (e.g., picture aided); constrained-syntax sentence production task	Grammatical structure; mean length of utterance; speech rate; accuracy of content; melody; prosody; specific error types in word selection; articulation	Nonfluent/agrammatic variant
<b>Motor speech</b>	Motor speech evaluation, including multiple repetitions of multisyllabic words; diadochokinesis of speech articulators; spontaneous speech	Effortfulness; hesitations; presence of apraxia of speech or dysarthria; specific types of speech sound errors; factors that affect articulation (e.g., word length in syllables)	Nonfluent/agrammatic variant
<b>Confrontation naming</b>	Single-word retrieval in response to pictures, sounds, foods, and odors	Error rate; delay in naming; factors that affect naming accuracy (e.g., familiar vs unfamiliar items, nouns vs verbs, semantic category); error types (e.g., semantic errors, phonemic errors)	Severe deficit in semantic variant with semantic errors; moderate impairment in logopenic variant with phonemic errors
<b>Repetition</b>	Oral repetition of words, pseudowords, phrases, and sentences	Factors that affect repetition accuracy (e.g., predictability of the phrase, sentence length, grammatical complexity); error types	Logopenic variant with phonological errors
<b>Sentence comprehension</b>	Matching orally presented sentences to pictures; answering yes/no questions; following directions	Factors that affect comprehension (e.g., grammatical complexity; reversibility of the sentence, e.g., The boy was kicked by the girl vs The ball was kicked by the girl)	Nonfluent/agrammatic variant, effect of grammatical complexity; logopenic variant, length and frequency effect
<b>Single-word comprehension</b>	Word-to-picture matching; Word-to-definition matching; Synonym matching	Factors that affect comprehension (e.g., familiarity; frequency; grammatical word class)	Semantic variant
<b>Object/people knowledge</b>	Picture-picture matching; odd-one-out; semantic associations; gesture-object matching; sound-picture matching	Factors that affect object knowledge (e.g., familiarity, semantic category)	Semantic variant
<b>Reading/spelling</b>	Lists including regular and irregular word lists, from various word classes, matched for other factors; pseudowords matched to words in length	Factors that affect reading/spelling accuracy (e.g., regularity, frequency, word class); error types (e.g., regularization, phonologically plausible errors; articulatory distortions)	Semantic variant with "regularization" errors; logopenic variant phonologic errors

## **An Italian battery for the assessment of semantic memory disorders**

Eleonora Catricalà · Pasquale A. Della Rosa ·  
Valeria Ginex · Zoe Mussetti · Valentina Plebani ·  
Stefano F. Cappa

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- 1. Denominazione su descrizione verbale**
- 2. Denominazione figure a colori**
- 3. Associazione parola-figura**
- 4. Sorting di figure a vari livelli**
  - i. Superordinata**
  - ii. Ordinata**
  - iii. Categoria**
  - iv. Sottocategoria**
- 5. Generazione e verifica di caratteristiche**

## Algoritmo per le afasie progressive

### 1. Produzione

- a) Errori motori: aprassici e disartrici
- b) Pause anomiche ed errori fonologici/semantici
- c) Sintassi semplificata ed errori morfologici

### 2. Denominazione e comprensione parole isolate

### 3. Ripetizione parole e frasi

### 4. Comprensione di frasi a crescente complessità sintattica

# Afasie Primarie Progressive

Fenotipo	Articolazione	Denominazione	Comprensione di parole	Ripetizione	Comprensione di frasi
NFPA	Alterata	Alterata [PF]	Normale	Alterata	Alterata
SD	Normale	Gravemente alterata [PS]	Alterata	Normale	Relativamente normale
LPA	Normale (lenta-esitante)	Alterata [PF]	Normale	Alterata	Alterata

Cappa S., SIN-DEM, 2010

### Non fluente

- Aprassia del linguaggio
- Agrammatismo
- Aree frontali inferiori, insula

**NFPA**

### Fluente

- Anomie
- Difficoltà di comprensione di singole parole
- Aree posteriori perisilviane, temporali laterali e temporo-polari

**SD**

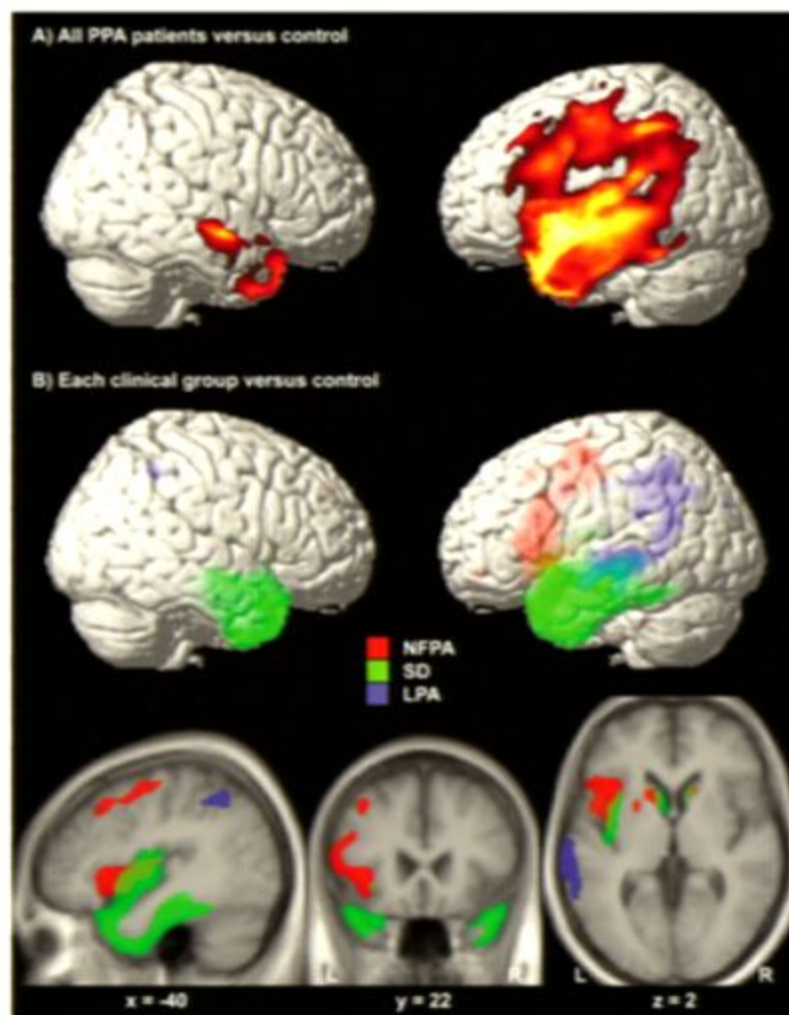
### Fluente

- Anomie
- Difficoltà di ripetizione
- Aree temporali posteriori e parietali inf

**LPA**

**PPA**

## Aree di atrofia nelle Afasie Primarie Progressive



## Progression of language decline and cortical atrophy in subtypes of primary progressive aphasia

1. Rogalski, PhD  
2. Lohr, PhD  
3. Dr. Thomas, MD  
4. Woods, MD  
5. Swenson, PhD  
6. Dr. Hodges, MD

### OBJECTIVE

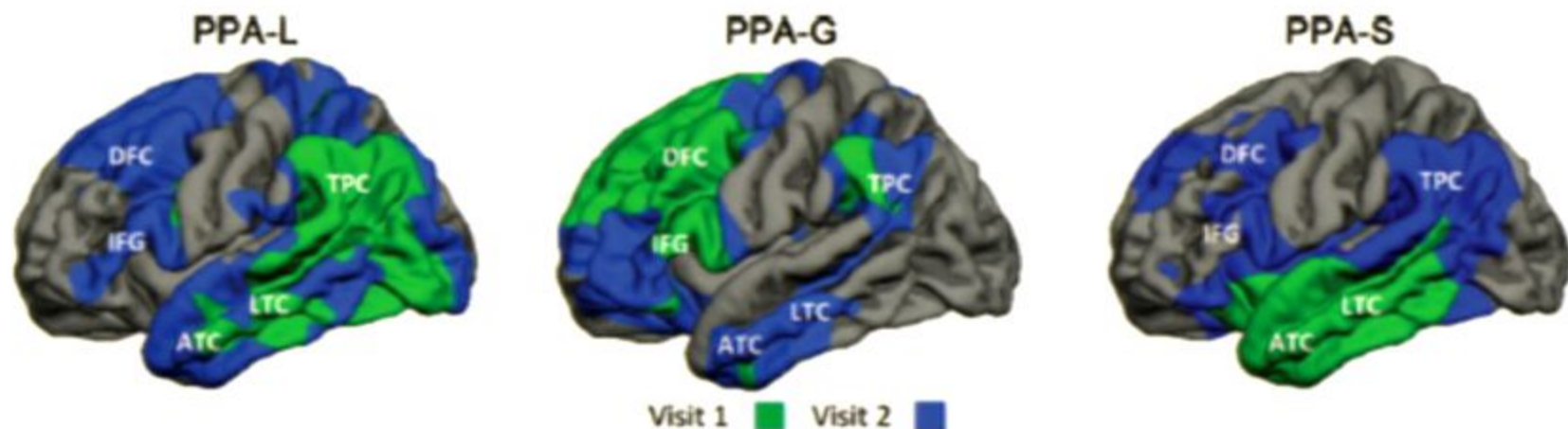
**Objective:** To examine the longitudinal course of primary progressive aphasia (PPA) over 2-3 years and determine if the quantitative stages of temporal change that correlate best to guide the design and evaluation of therapeutic interventions exist.

**Methods:** Regional changes of cortical thickness and white-matter volume loss as well as neuropsychological language performance were assessed at baseline and 2 years later in 13 cognitively intact, non-demented patients who fulfilled research criteria for logopenic, agrammatic, and semantic PPA subtypes (PPA-L, PPA-G, and PPA-S).

**Results:** There was substantial progression of clinical deficits and cortical atrophy over 2 years for all subtypes of language impairment compared with the stable distributions that characterized the PPA variant from another hemisphere. The subtype-specific differential impairment of word comprehension or grammatical processing was largely maintained. Peak atrophy sites spread beyond the initial distinctive locations that characterized each of the 3 subtypes and depicted a more convergent distribution encompassing all 3 major components of the language network: the inferior frontal gyrus, the left temporoparietal cortex, and lateral temporal cortex. Despite the progression, word-level atrophy remained lateralized to the left hemisphere.

**Conclusions:** The results suggest that the unique features which sharply differentiate the PPA variants at the early-to-middle stages may lose their distinctiveness as the degeneration advances. Thus, the substantial atrophy over 2 years PPA clinical trials may require more uniform and shared study designs than Alzheimer disease trials to detect significant changes in effects. *Neurology* 2015;79:1088-1095

www.alzdisorders.org  
DOI: 10.1093/brain/awv001  
First published online  
12 November 2015



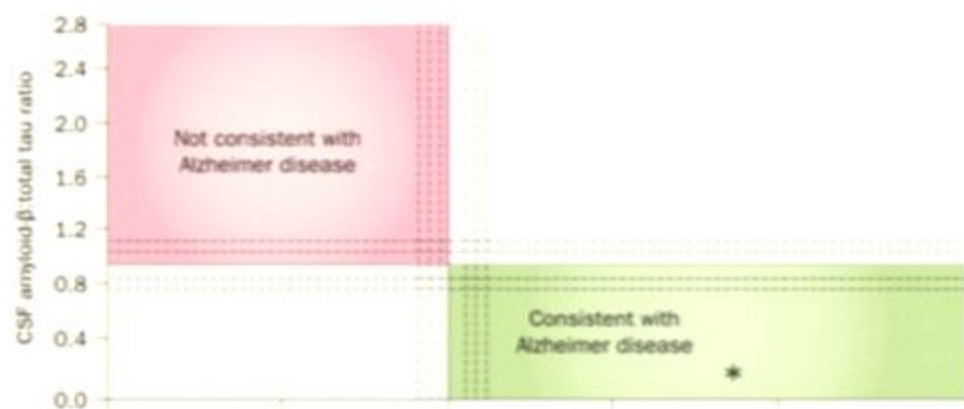
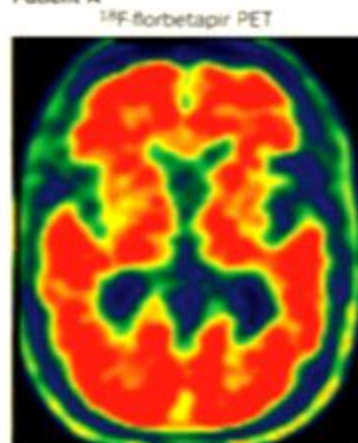
Areas of significant cortical thinning in the left hemisphere at baseline (green) and 2 years later (blue) for each of the primary progressive aphasia variants. ATC = anterior temporal cortex; DFC = dorsal frontal cortex; IFG = inferior frontal gyrus; LTC = lateral temporal cortex; PPA-G = agrammatic primary progressive aphasia subtype; PPA-L = logopenic primary progressive aphasia subtype; PPA-S = semantic primary progressive aphasia subtype; TPC = temporoparietal cortex.

## Primary progressive aphasia and the evolving neurology of the language network

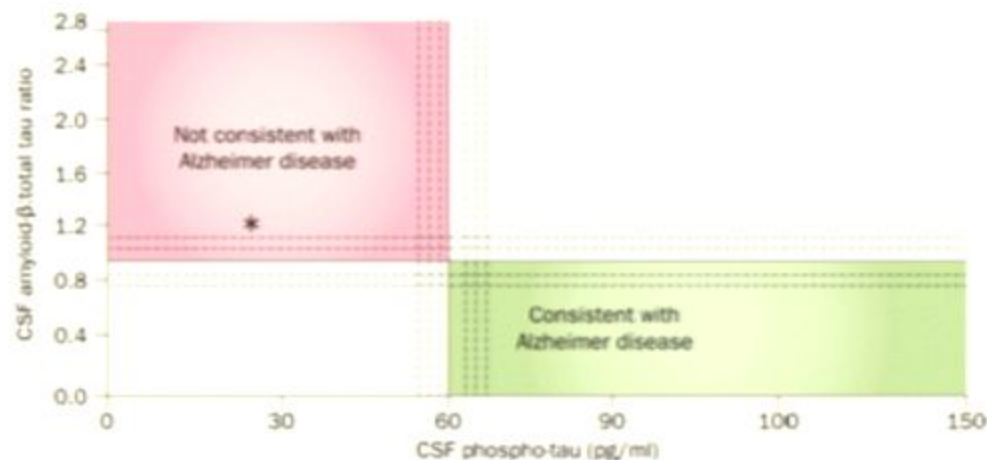
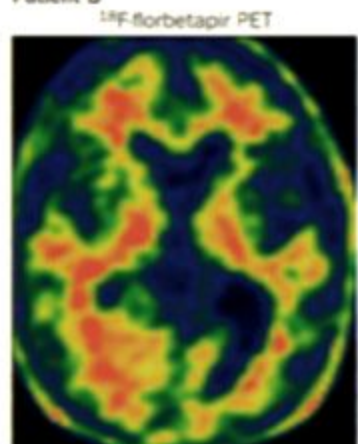
M.-Marsel Mesulam, Emily J. Rogalski, Christina Wieneke, Robert S. Hurley, Changiz Geula, Eileen H. Bigio, Cynthia K. Thompson, and Sandra Weintraub

Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Centre, 320 East Superior Street, Searle Building, 11-450, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL 60611, USA (M.-M.M., E.J.R., C.W., R.S.H., C.G., S.W.), Department of Neuropathology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 710 North Fairbanks Court, Chicago, IL 60611, USA (E.H.B.), Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Northwestern University, 633 Clark Street, Evanston, IL 60208, USA (C.K.T.)

Patient A

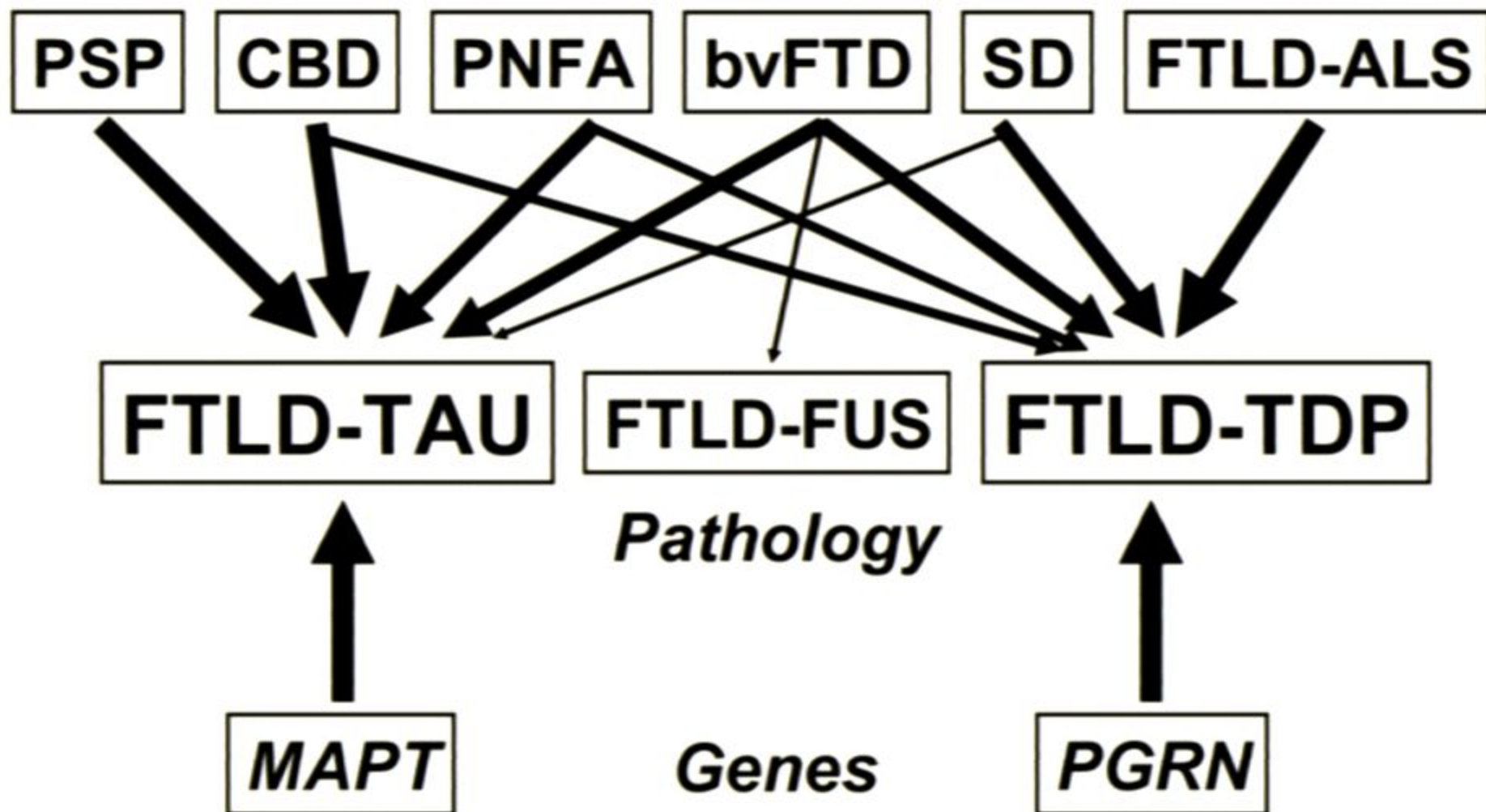


Patient B





## *Clinical Syndromes*



# Correlazione probabilistica



- **Fenotipo clinico PPA**
  - NFPA
  - SD
  - LPA
- **Localizzazione atrofia con neuroimmagini**
  - RM encefalo con VBM
  - PET cerebrale con FDG
- **Istopatologia**
  - Amiloidopatie
  - Taupatie
  - TDP-43patie
  - Altre (FUS,...)
- **Genetica**
  - APP, PS1, PS2
  - MAPT, C9ORF72
  - PGRN