



# Influence of Partner Training on Communication for an Individual with Corticobasal Degeneration



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## What is Corticobasal Degeneration?

Corticobasal Degeneration (CBD) is a rare neurodegenerative disease with motoric, speech, language and cognitive dysfunction. Corticobasal Degeneration accounts for three percent of the movement disorders diagnosed in the United States (Stover & Watts, 2001).

## Participants

The case study consisted of two participants, JS and BS. JS is a 65 year old woman diagnosed with CBD, while BS is her husband and primary communication partner. BS has been involved, supportive, and proactive throughout the diagnosis and therapy including keeping detailed journals of JS' progression throughout the years.

## Partner Training

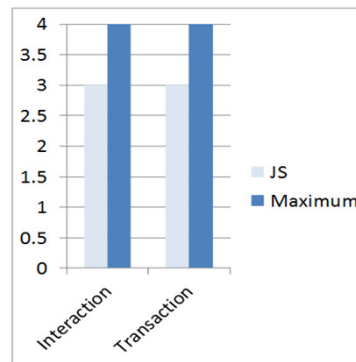
The case study followed a modified multi-modality partner training approach. The multi-modality partner training approach is designed to train conversational partners to reveal competence of the individual diagnosed with CBD through facilitative strategies.



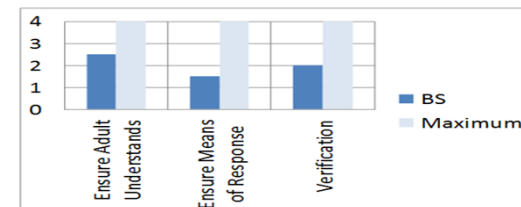
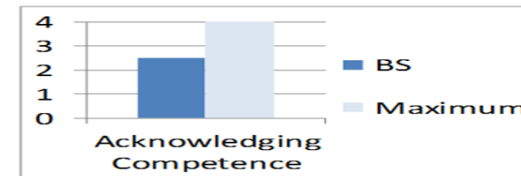
- Written Choices
- Indirect questions vs. quizzing & direct questions
- Appropriate wait-time
- Sharing of self vs. questioning
- Writing key words to anchor/pace the interaction

*Participants were trained through models, hands-on practice, and troubleshooting/debriefing discussions*

## Results: Post-Training



Measure of Participation in Conversation



Measure of Supported Communication

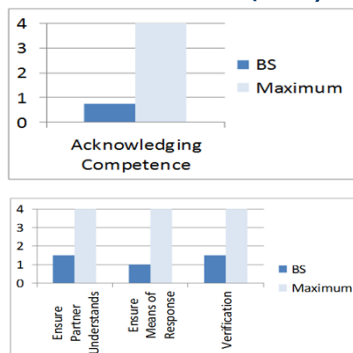
## Interpretations

- The increase in BS' positive supporting behaviors increased JS' conversational participation.
- JS is able to participate more when her partner gives appropriate support and lowers conversational demands

## A Participatory Action Research Method

- Participants helped lead research and were actively involved in data collection planning and reflection.
- Study initiated by JS and BS to pursue research that may ultimately help other families affected by CBD in the future
- BS took what he had learned in the training and has shared it with other conversational partners and those who interact with JS.

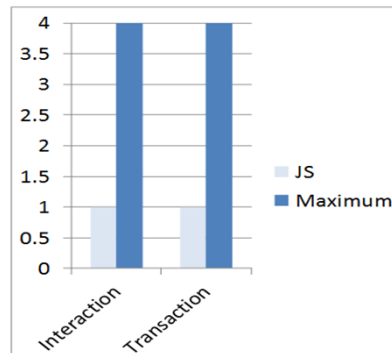
## Measure of Supported Communication (MSC)



### Most Frequent Behaviors:

- Quizzing
- Requesting
- Rapid rate
- Giving conversational turns

## Measure of Participation in Conversation (MPC)

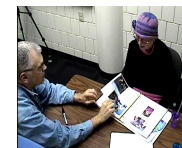


### Most Frequent Behaviors:

- Verbal "Yes"
- Nodding
- Laughter

## Implications of Partner Training

- Trained partners can influence communication success of an individual with CBD
- Increasing positive support behaviors
- Reducing less supportive behaviors
- Meaningful empirical data on language behaviors in CBD



## Future Directions

Treatment and assessment of CBD  
 Need for more single-subject/case designs in this disorder area

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