

Learn About:
**Primary Progressive Aphasia
(PPA)**

Mesulam Center at
Northwestern University

Aphasia-Friendly Materials

www.brain.northwestern.edu
(312) 908-9339
mesulam-center@northwestern.edu

What is Primary Progressive Aphasia?

PPA is a neurodegenerative **brain** condition.

It is a type of **dementia**.

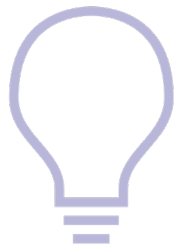
PPA is **not due to stress or anxiety**.

PPA can make it **hard to:**

speak



understand



read



write



PPA Progression

The first signs of PPA may be small. PPA is a progressive disorder.

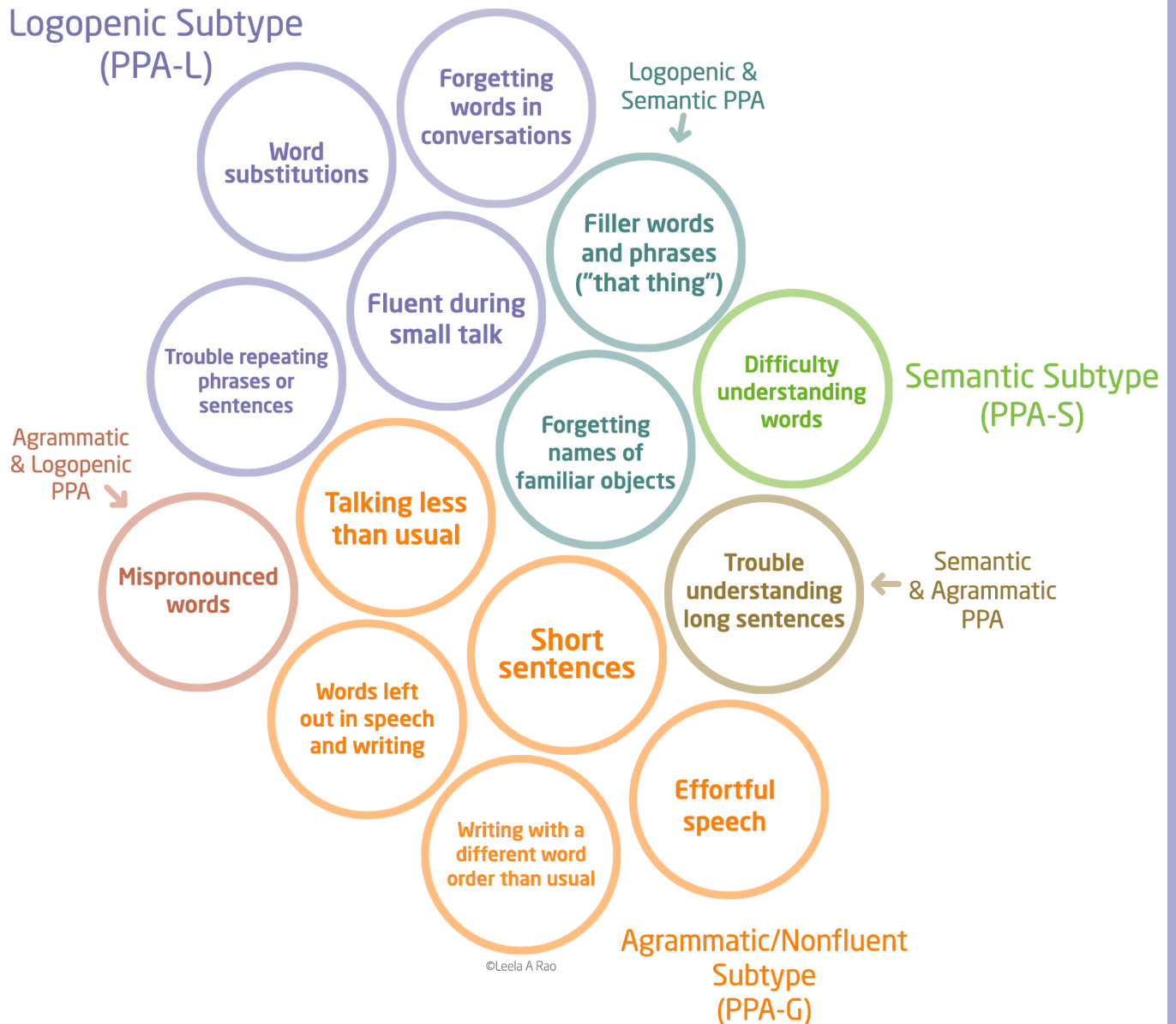
Symptoms will become worse over time.

Each person with PPA will have different changes at different times.

A person with PPA may also have changes in:

· **memory** · **attention** · **judgment** · **behavior** ·
· **personality** · **movement** · **swallowing**

Symptoms of Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) by subtype classification



There are at least **3** types of PPA: **logopenic**, **semantic**, and **agrammatic**.
A person with PPA may have symptoms from **more than one subtype**.
A person with PPA may not have all the symptoms of one subtype.

Causes of PPA

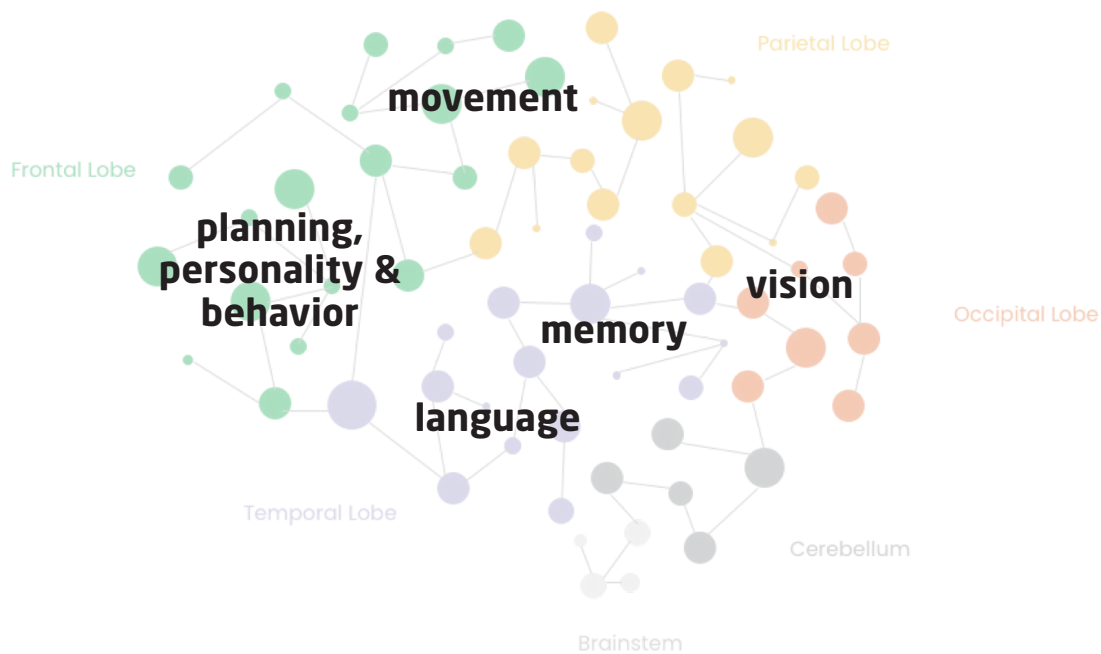
PPA is caused by the **buildup of proteins** that are not working correctly.

These proteins are caused by:

Alzheimer's Disease (**AD**) or Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration (**FTLD**).

PPA is **not** caused by stroke, cancer, injury, or head trauma.

There is a **relationship** between the **location of proteins** and **symptoms**.



AD and FTLD can only be diagnosed by looking at the brain **after death** with a microscope.

Scientists are studying ways to diagnose AD and FTLD when people are still alive by using special positron emission tomography (PET) **brain scans, cerebral spinal fluid (CSF), and blood biomarkers.**

The Mesulam Center

Dr. Mesulam named Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) in 1982.

Our PPA study is one of the **first and largest** in the country.

We offer clinical research, Quality of Life programs, clinical trials,
and a brain autopsy program.

Clinical Care & Research

The **mission** of the Mesulam Center is to:

Offer interdisciplinary, **personalized care**.

Study the neurobiology of brain aging and dementias.

Train clinicians and scientists of the future.

Clinical Care:

Neurobehavior and Memory Clinic

676 North St. Clair Street
Suite 945
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 695 - 9627

Research:

Mesulam Center

300 E Superior Street
Tarry, 8
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 908 - 9339

Thank you!

Thank you for your interest in the Mesulam Center!
We are here to help you through this journey.

Still have questions?

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