

# How successful are conversations between people with aphasia and their primary conversation partner? Validation of The Measure of Dyadic Conversation in Aphasia



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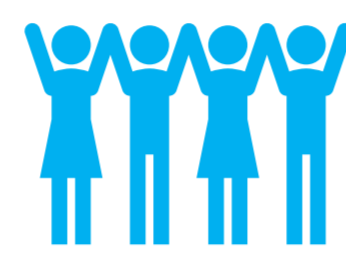
## BACKGROUND

What is this research about?

Conversation is important to people with aphasia and their conversation partner.

Successful conversations can mean successful relationships

Speech therapy for conversation can help; however, it is hard to measure if the therapy has improved conversations.



How did we do the research?

## AIM

We aimed to develop and validate a questionnaire to measure if you and your conversation partner are having successful conversations together.



## METHOD

1. Our previous studies had gathered ideas from people with aphasia and their conversation partners about what makes their conversations successful. We also looked at existing patient-reported outcome measures- PROMs.

2. We made 2 new questionnaires to measure success in conversations for people with aphasia and their primary conversation partner. (MDCA-Aphasia, MDCA- Partner)

3. We included some questions about relationships.

4. To evaluate content validity, we conducted cognitive interviews with 8 couples living with aphasia.

### Validation Questions

- Do the questions make sense?
- Are they relevant to you?
- Should we change the wording?
- Is there anything more?



## RESULTS

What did we learn?

	MDCA- Aphasia	MDCA- Partner	MDCA- Relationship
<b>RELEVANCE</b>	97% of items were relevant to PWA 1 item was removed E.g. I can have long conversations	72% of items were relevant to PCP. 7 items were removed E.g. I enjoyed our conversations	80% relevant to all participants 7 items were removed E.g. We just sit down and talk a problem through
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	9 items were reworded. E.g. My conversation partner was responsive to conversing with me. Changed to: My conversation partner was happy to chat with me.	8 items were reworded. E.g. We spent time together doing other things. Changed to: Our shared activities helped our conversations.	7 items were reworded and combined. E.g. 3 items were merged to We discussed and problem-solved situations together
<b>REPRESENTS SUCCESSFUL CONVERSATIONS</b>	5 items were combined E.g. We laughed and relaxed was merged with We used our sense of humour. No new items were suggested	3 items were combined. E.g. act with love and laughter was merged with We kept our sense of humour No new items were suggested	100% PWA felt the relationship questions were important to keep. 25% PCP reported they no longer relied on their spouse with aphasia for as much emotional support.

Figure 1. Results of cognitive interviews with people with aphasia and their primary conversation partner

## CONCLUSIONS



We have a new way to measure how successful a couple's conversation is when one person has aphasia.

The MDCA allows you to report how you and your communication partner use communication strategies and coping strategies that make conversations successful with each other

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