Treatment for Aphasic Perseveration
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1. What is TAP?
   - Aphasia intervention that targets the elimination of recurrent perseveration
   - Based on the Confrontation Naming subtest of the BDAE
   - Indirectly aims to increase naming scores

2. Rationale for TAP
   - TAP seeks to bring perseveration to the level of consciousness and “block” the perseverative response so that the correct response can be activated.

3. Who is a candidate for TAP? Clients eligible for TAP are:
   - Fully alert
   - Have moderately preserved auditory comprehension
   - Have good memory skills
   - Have some confrontation naming ability
   - Display moderate to severe recurrent perseveration

4. TAP Administration
   - Calculate perseveration severity score from BDAE Confrontation Naming score
   - Order the semantic categories (objects, actions, colors, letters, numbers, body parts, geometric forms) from easiest to most difficult
   - Fostering awareness
   - Presentation of Pictures (at least 5 second intervals, pictures from BDAE or other sources as necessary.)
   - Question prompt “What is this?”
   - Use of cues (no more than 3 per stimulus item)
   - *Even if a client answers correctly after a cue is given, they must again respond correctly to the question, “So what is this?” in order for their response to be counted as correct. Only responses after the question, “So what is this?” are scored.

6. Cues
   - Time Interval
   - Gestural Cue
   - Drawing
   - Descriptive Sentence
   - Sentence Completion
   - Graphic Cue
   - Phonemic Cue
   - Oral Reading
   - Repetition
   - Unison speech or singing

*These cues, along with the stimulus pictures, can be personalized for the client

7. Scoring
8. **Strategy Carryover**

TAP strategies can and should be used in daily communication for naming and word-finding.

- Gesture to let people know a time interval is being used (to avoid perseveration and use correct word)
- Keep a pad of paper handy to draw or write
- Use word-map strategies such as describing the target word.
- Have caregivers sit in on sessions to learn strategies that can be applicable to everyday life

9. **Total Therapy Plan**

- TAP will most likely never be administered as the only treatment for a PWA. It is recommended to be alternated with another treatment type in an ABAB format.
- Cues and strategies found in the TAP program can be utilized as perseveration occurs during other therapy tasks.

10. **Termination of TAP**

- If perseveration has not decreased to a score of 1 or 2 after 10 TAP sessions, the intervention is not considered effective and should be terminated and alternate intervention programs considered.

11. **Research supporting TAP**

- In all three patients in the original study by the authors of TAP - Helm-Estabrooks et al. (1987) - TAP reduced the amount of perseveration and increased language performance.
- Additionally, research on the time interval cue has shown that it is an effective method
of decreasing perseveration (Kohen, Benetello, Guerrero, Kalinyak-Fliszar & Martin, 2012).