Background
Persons with global aphasia often present a challenge for SLT treatment. Because of their complex and severe linguistic and cognitive deficits, the burden of conversation is necessarily shared. Involving the conversation partner is a prerequisite for successful participation of the person with aphasia. We present Sam, 71, 58 MPO & his wife Tina, 69, who undertook a treatment programme aimed at improving their conversations.

Impairment – linguistic & cognitive assessments

No verbal expression; Apraxia of Speech
Comprehension better at sentence level
Relatively preserved visuo-constructive skills
Difficulty in shifting, perseverations
Reasonable concept formation

PACT therapy

PACT = Partners van Afasiepatiënten Conversatie Training
Dutch adaptation of SPPARC
8 sessions of 1 hour

Activity – Scenario Test
Sam answers 70% of the items independently or with a little help, shifting between modalities.

Participation - Conversation Analysis: Pre-treatment

Turn taking and sequences
Tina
- uses many (test) questions
- asks for verbal responses
- does not value multimodal turns of Sam

Sam
- uses multimodal communication (gesture, facial expression, pointing, some pantomime)

Repair
- correct production sequences

Topic & overall conversation
Tina
- uses pedagogic style
- does not use supported conversation
- initiates all topics

Sam
- is frustrated by pedagogic style

Results

Scenario Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>pre PACT</th>
<th>post PACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raw score</td>
<td>36/54</td>
<td>40/54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentile</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

Impairment level assessments show strengths and weaknesses in the linguistic and cognitive domain. These assessments miss out on the communicative intention and the use of context by Sam in natural conversation, provided that his partner takes this into account. The Scenario Test reflects natural conversation well. Based on Conversation Analysis Tina received customised conversation training, which established improvement in their interactions.