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| Parts of Speech | Dysarthria – Difficult articulation – mouth, tongue, face, nn, upper motor CNs, Extrapyramidal, Cerebellar Dysphonia – Abnormal quality – vocal cords Dysphasia – Higher centre problem with the use of symbols of communication – speech, writing, reading Expressive – Broca’s area – Non fluent, halting, comprehension normal Receptive – Wernike’s area – Fluent, disorganised, poor comprehension Conductive – Arcuate fasciculus linking the two – fluent, disorganised, can follow command Nominal – Not localising. Present with all, and if lone finding may be recovering for any | |
| Screening examination of speech | Introduce yourself. Shake hands. Are you left or right handed. Generate free/propositional speech as a basic screen by asking them to describe the room, your tie, or the picture shown opposite. Based on this, decide if the patient has Dysarthria, Dysphonia, Dysphasia and if Dysphasia – whether it is fluent or non-fluent Comprehension Touch your chin, then your nose, then your ear Do you put your shoes on before your socks? Repetition pleas say “No lfs, And or Buts” Nomination Name two objects (either supply them, or from the picture) Articulation Please say “British Constitution” | |
| Dysarthria | Pseudobulbar palsy – UMN IX,X,XII±UL. emotion Bulbar Palsy – LMN IX,X,XII. Wasting, nasal Parkinsons – Monotonous. Parkinsons neuro Cerebellar – Slow, slurred, explosive, drunken or speech broken up into syllables = scanning | Progress to testing of CN and facial mms, Extra pyramidal disease and cerebellar depending on your findings, then onto likely causes – vascular disease for infarcts, cancer for mets/space occupying lesions, rest of neuro exam etc. |
| Dysphonia | Laryngeal disease. Viral, cords or nerves | Progress to ENT exam, airway assessment, laryngoscopy, nerves |
| Non-fluent Dysphasia (expressive) | Progress to preserved speech – numbers, alphabet, songs, swears fluently when upset. Progress to reading, writing (may be impaired) and higher centre testing with all dysphasia | |
| Fluent Dysphasia (receptive / conductive / nominal) | Receptive Dysphasia Not able to understand/follow spoken or written commands. (reading impaired = dyslexia) Writing has abnormal content or if dominant frontal lesion have impaired writing (dysgraphia) | Conductive Dysphasia Not able to repeat or name Able to follow commands well Reading impaired (Dyslexia) Writing is impaired (Dysgraphia) |
| Cerebellum | Unlikely you will have “examine cerebellar function” as a short. More likely you will discover a cerebellar problem in a neuro exam and will progress to examine the cerebellum | Cerebellar disease is ipsilateral to lesion Midline lesion = truncal ataxia, abn heel-toe, abn speech Rostral vermis = lower limbs (etoh) Other Cb signs decide unilateral or bilateral |
| Cerebellar Exam | Nystagmus – horizontal greatest when look to side of lesion Speech – Jerky, explosive, loud, irregular rhythm UL Extend arms – upper limb drift Hypotonia Finger nose – past pointing, intent tremor Dysdiadochokinesia Rebound – raise arms and suddenly stop LL Hypotonia Heel shin – drift on affected side(s) Great toe-finger test – Intention tremor, past pointing Foot tapping (dysdiadochokinesia) Trunk Fold arms and sit up Swing legs over side of bed – pendular knee jerk = hypotonia Gait examination – stagger / falls to affected side. | |
| Progress | Unilateral Cranial nerves for CP angle tumour or Lat medullary syndrome Fundi for papilloedema Peripheral signs of malignant disease Vascular disease carotids / vertebrals Midline Look for malignancy / paraneoplastic Midline tumor | Bilateral MS Friedreich’s ataxia (pes cavus, kyphoscoliosis, peri neurop) Hypothyroidism Etoh (LL disease >> UL) Look for UMN signs – spinocerebellar degen, MS, Arnold Chiari, Syphilis, Syrx, Lesion at craniospinal jn (meningioma), CVA |



