PRIMARY PROGRESSIVE APHASIA (PPA)

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

PPA is a type of dementia in which language abilities are the primary symptoms. Initial cognitive symptoms include difficulty with word-finding, repetition, naming, language comprehension, and articulation. Swallowing difficulties may also be present.

CAUSES & RISK FACTORS

PPA can be caused by deposits of proteins such as tau, amyloid or TDP-43 in the brain. Damage in specific areas within the frontal, temporal, and parietal regions of the brain, along with specific language symptoms, dictate the particularly type of PPA an individual may have. Some cases of PPA are inherited and have been tied to mutations in the genes GRN and MAPT.

BEHAVIORAL CHANGES

Individuals with PPA are often aware of their communication difficulties, which may cause frustration, depression, anxiety, apathy or social withdrawal. Later in the disease course, behavioral problems such as impulsivity and disinhibition may occur. Movement problems like clumsiness or balance problems may also be present.

See signs? Talk to your doctor.