



# Participant and Care Partner Experiences with a Multimodal Communication Treatment with Discourse and Group Delivered via Telepractice (teleMCT+DG)

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## Introduction

### Multimodal Communication Treatment (MCT)

- Aims to teach people with aphasia (PWA) functional strategies to help resolve communication breakdowns (Purdy & VanDyke, 2011)
- Trains five communication modalities (speaking, gesturing, writing, drawing, and a communication book) at the single and two-word level (Purdy & Wallace, 2015; Wallace et al., 2014)

### TeleMCT+DG

- Modified MCT to include discourse tasks and group therapy
- Modified to deliver via telepractice (Park et al., 2025; Rajesh et al., 2025)
- Shown positive evidence of treatment effects (Park et al., 2025)

### Qualitative Feedback from the Participants and Care Partners

- Pursuing life participation of aphasia approach (LPAA)
- Important for evaluating therapeutic success and maintaining a person-centered approach (Hinckley et al., 2023)

### Purpose of the Study:

The current study aimed to highlight participant feedback following teleMCT+DG, emphasizing their perceived effects on communication, whether they met their goals, and their perceptions of the treatment protocol and telepractice format.

## Methods

### Participants

People with aphasia (PWA) who have participated in teleMCT+DG and their care Partners (CP) were interviewed.

Table 1 Participant Demographics

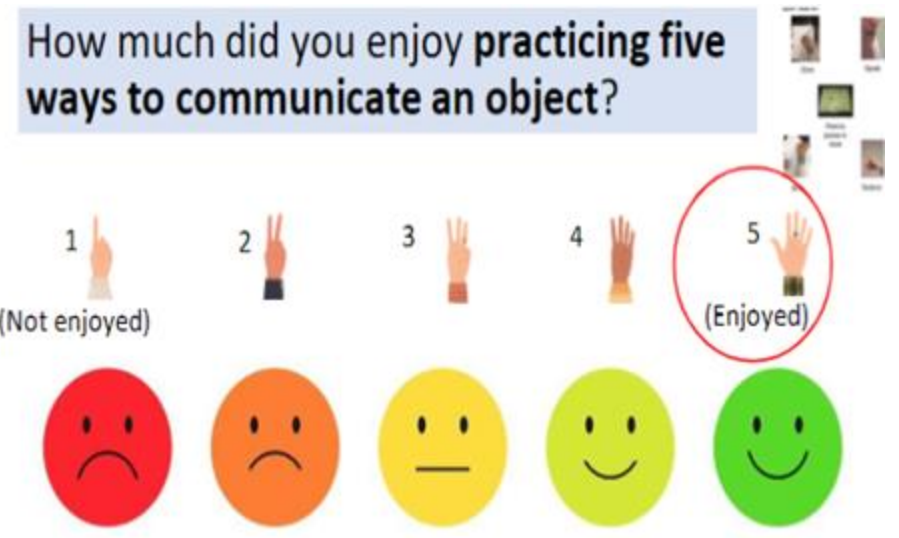
Participants with Aphasia	PWA1	PWA2	PWA3	PWA4	PWA5	PWA6*	PWA7
Sex, Age	M, 75	M, 49	F, 51	M, 50	F, 41	M, 68	M, 42
Etiology (Post onset)	CVA	CVA	CVA	CVA	CVA	CVA	CVA
WAB-R AQ & WAB-R Classification	91.2 Anomic	60 Conduction	61.2 Conduction	32.3 Broca	85.6 Anomic	12.4 Global	61.2 Broca
SAQOL-39 (Communication subset)	2.9/5	2/5	4.1/5	2.2/5	3/5	2.3/5	4.6/5
Interview Participation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Care Partners	No CP	CP2	CP3	CP4	No CP	CP6	No CP
Sex, Age	N/A	F, 49	M, 70	F, 48	N/A	F, 67	N/A
Therapy Participation	N/A	75-100%	0-25%	50-75%	N/A	75-100%	N/A
Interview Participation	N/A	Half with P2 present	Half with P3 present	Full with P4 present	N/A	Full (P6 not present)	N/A

*The care partner's participant number corresponds with PWA's participant number.  
\*Participant unable to participate in the interview due to severe aphasia*

### Materials and Procedures

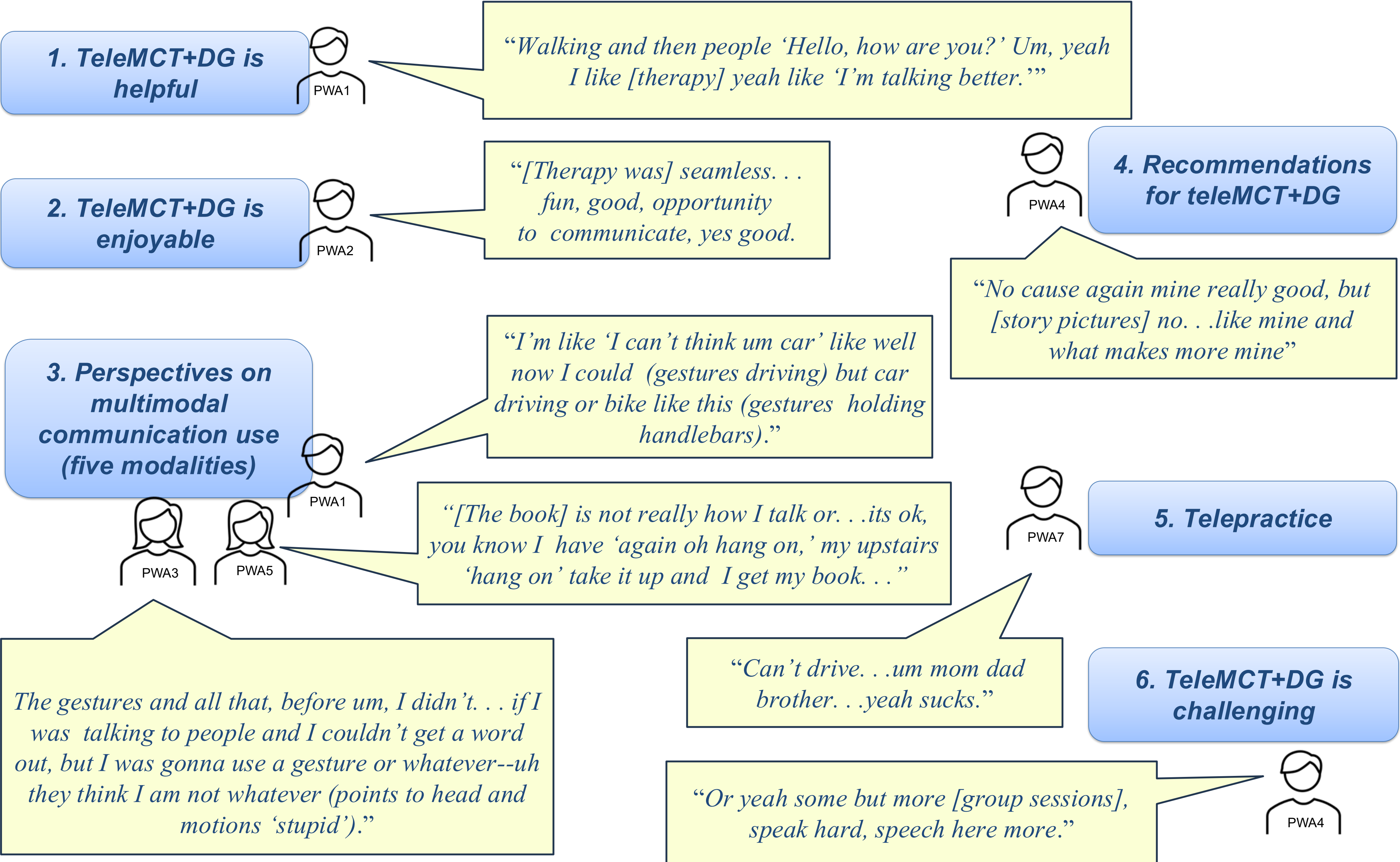
- Interview participation was flexible to accommodate PWA and CP needs and preferences.
- 41 interview questions within three categories:
  - (1) satisfaction with the treatment
  - (2) generalization to daily communication, and
  - (3) advantages and disadvantages of telepractice format
- Zoom©
- Video-recording to be manually transcribed for analysis



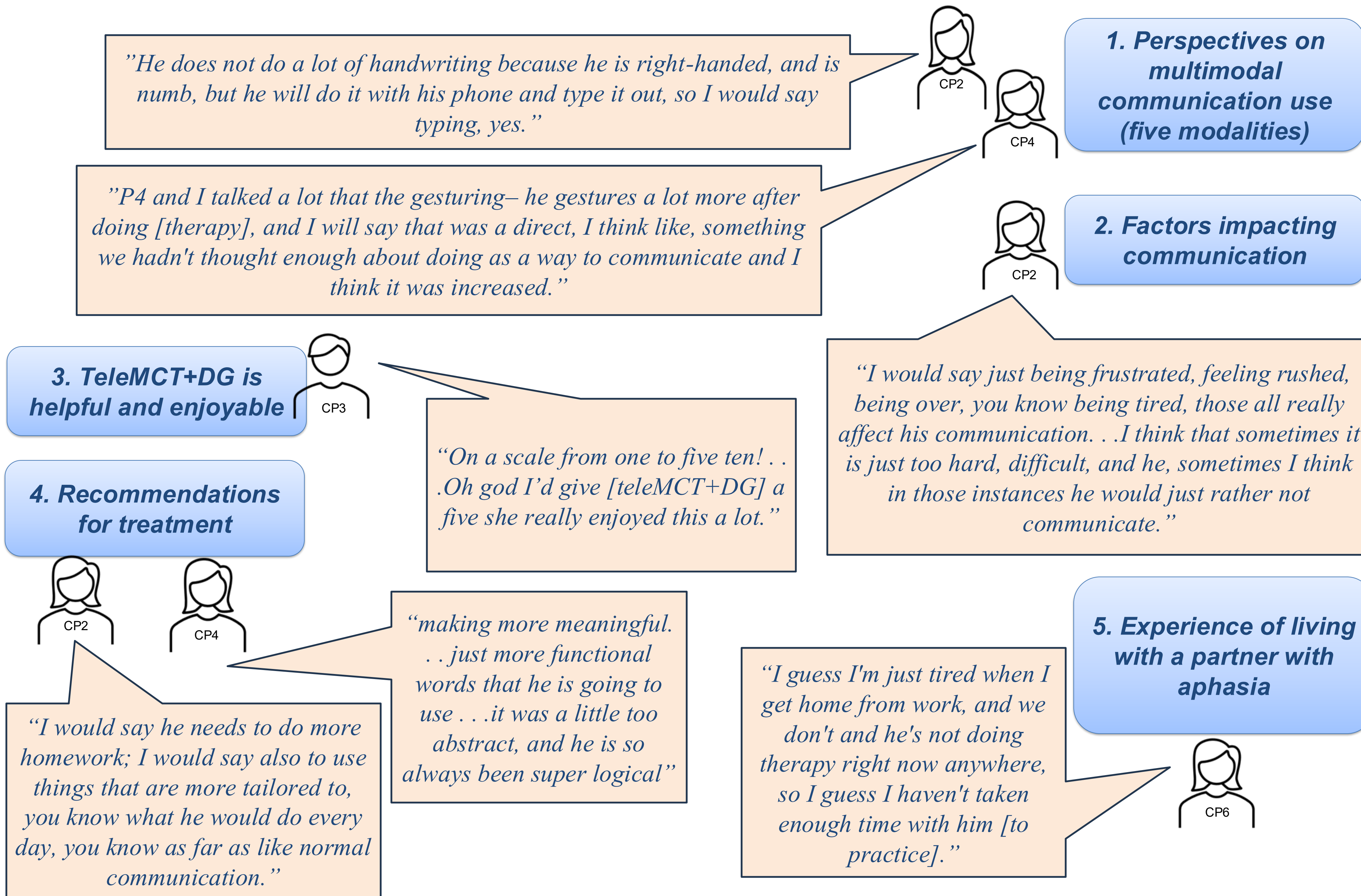
### Analysis

- Descriptive qualitative analysis (Simmons-Mackie & Lynch, 2013)
- Independent coding for 2 interviews to determine initial key concepts (5 raters)
- Discussion between raters to develop the initial codebook with descriptive themes
- The codebook continued to be expanded and edited by following interviews
- Themes were emerged based on the final codebook

## Results: Participants with Aphasia



## Results: Care Partners



## Results: Ratings

Table 2. Participants' Ratings on the Helpfulness of Practicing Each Modality (1= not helpful at all, 5= very helpful)

Modality	PWA1	PWA2	PWA3	PWA4	PWA5	PWA6	PWA7	Mean
Speaking	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/5	3/5	4/5	4.43/5
Gesturing	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/5	4/5	5/5	4.71/5
Drawing	5/5	5/5	4/5	4/5	5/5	4/5	3/5	4.29/5
Writing	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/5	3/5	4.57/5
Communication Book	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	4/5	5/5	5/5	4.57/5

Table 3. Participants' Enjoyment of TeleMCT+DG and Specific Tasks (1= did not enjoy at all, 5= very much enjoyed)

Treatment Elements	PWA1	PWA2	PWA3	PWA4	PWA5	PWA6	PWA7	Mean
Overall Therapy	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	4.71/5
Communicating the Object Card	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/5	4/5	5/5	5/5	4.71/5
Practicing all 5 Modalities	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/5	5/5	4/5	3/5	4.43/5
Making stories out of pictures	4/5	5/5	4/5	2/5	5/5	3/5	3/5	3.71/5
Group trivia	5/5	5/5	5/5	4/5	5/5	3/5	4/5	4.43/5

## Discussion

### Summary

- Overall positive responses from PWA and CPs.
  - TeleMCT+DG was productive, helpful and enjoyable
  - Participants generate more nonverbal modalities in daily communication than before receiving the therapy
  - Expressing that non-verbal modalities "helped get my words and thoughts out."
- Challenges of teleMCT+DG:
  - Generating stories, reading impairments, confusion, or mobility impairments (e.g., handwriting due to numbness)
- PWA and CP Recommendations
  - Take-home assignments, typing modality, and personalized story pictures

### Clinical Implication & Future Directions

- Next step: include clinician responses regarding satisfaction and potential barriers in conducting the treatment
- Modifying teleMCT+DG based on the feedback (e.g., personalized materials)

## References

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