

# **Cognition for Communication In PD: The Role of Speech Language Pathology**

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# Today's Session

**1**

**APPROACHING FEAR  
OF COGNITIVE  
CHANGES**

**2**

**COGNITIVE  
COMMUNICATION  
& PD**

**3**

**WHO IS INVOLVED?**

**4**

**SPEECH LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGY.. AND  
COGNITION?**

**5**

**COGNITIVE-  
COMMUNICATION  
DIFFICULTIES AND  
STRATEGIES**

**6**

**LOOKING AHEAD WITH  
ACTION**

# Cognitive Communication Difficulties & Parkinson Disease

Aging and living with Parkinson disease (PD) may bring about fears of the future and about the possibility of cognitive difficulties and dementia (Corner & Bond, 2004; Mantri et al., 2024)

# Cognitive Communication Difficulties & Parkinson Disease

- At least 10% of individuals living with PD have an express concern about developing dementia or cognitive impairment in the future (Mantri et al., 2024)

“I fear the future and am terrified of getting dementia”

# Cognitive Communication Difficulties & Parkinson Disease

- Stigma and fear of cognitive changes or dementia may act as a barrier for seeking help about these concerns (Parker et al., 2020)
- Facilitators toward seeking help about cognitive difficulties include:
  - Recognition of symptoms
  - Prior knowledge and contacts
  - Support from informal network

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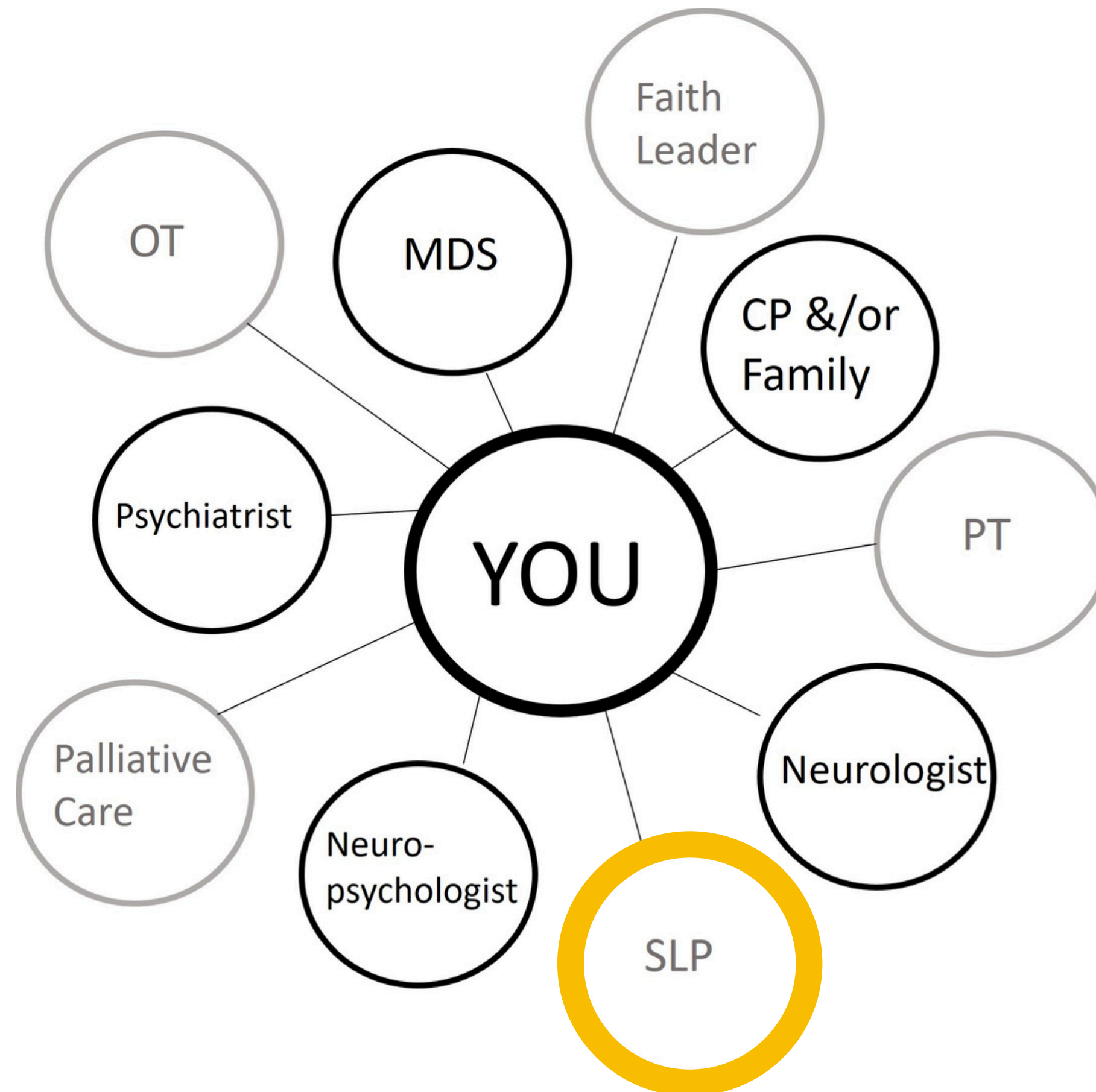
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# TEAM FOR COGNITION



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# LANGUAGE & COGNITION

Therapy is effective with a focus on:  
**supporting access to life**



# LANGUAGE & COGNITION

How are you going to clean up this room?

Think about the exact steps you would need to take in your home to get this room back in working order.





# **Cognitive Communication Difficulties & Parkinson Disease**

Difficulties with the ability to attend to or organize information and/or solve problems using thinking and language functions.

These may affect:

- Selective Attention
- Word Finding (Language)
- Executive Functioning

# SELECTIVE ATTENTION

Difficulties maintaining focus on the desired content and ignoring unimportant information

## REDUCING COGNITIVE BURDEN

- Select communication environments with fewer competing demands
- 1 conversation in a close space
- Remove radio, tv, background noise



# WORD FINDING

Difficulties retrieving the intended lexical item (word) when faced with a naming task or during conversation

- Exacerbated by acute stress
- What is your preference and when?

## CIRCUMLOCUTION

Using descriptive language or paraphrasing an idea when the precise word is difficult to recall.

“Talking around the word”

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# JUSTICE

## CIRCUMLOCUTION

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“Talking around the word”



# EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

A group of higher-level cognitive functions including planning, judgement, inhibition, and others

- Helps with decision-making and behavior
- May show up as difficulty planning steps and making the next decision for completing a task

## PURPOSEFUL PLANNING

- Allowing a moment to identify the goal and the steps you intend to take to get there
- Task outline (written or verbal)

# LOOKING AHEAD & ACTION

- Baseline testing
  - The best way to detect subtle changes is to have a **clear starting point**
  - Ask your provider if you might have access to comprehensive neuropsychological testing
- Ensure that you are **talking with your provider** about potential fears, difficulties, and/or family history
- Ask your provider about SLP or OT therapy for **current cognitive challenges** you may be experiencing

# THANK YOU

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