A journey of communication for people with motor neurone disease

Background and Aims

Individuals with MND can face many difficulties and challenges with communicating as their disease progresses. This talk aims to:

1. Explain what the communication challenges can be at each stage of the disease

2. Explore what support and help there is at each stage in the form of low and high technology AAC, or communication aids

MND can affect communication in many different ways

Early advice and support is vital e.g. about how to bank your voice

AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) plays a key role in supporting communication and maintaining independance at each stage



Early Stages

Low tech: pointing to letter,
phrase or picture charts, writing

Patient choice, support and specialist assessment is vital in this process

Early stages
High Tech: Voice amplifiers
iPads with specialist apps



Later stages
Low Tech: Eye pointing or
partner scanning to letter,
phrase or picture charts



High Tech: Accessing computers with specialist communication software using head mouse, switches or eye gaze Integration with environmental controls





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References

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