Apraxia

Apraxia is a neurological disorder. It causes one to be unable to carry out learned (familiar) movements. This happens even though the patient has the desire and physical ability to perform the movements. Apraxia may be accompanied by a language disorder called aphasia.

There are several types of apraxia. They involve being unable to perform certain functions. Examples include being unable to:

- Make fine, precise movements with a limb (*limb-kinetic*).
- Carry out a motor command (*ideomotor*).
- Create a plan for or idea of a specific movement (*ideational*).
- Draw or make simple things (*constructional*).
- Carry out facial movements on command (*buccofacial* or *facial-oral*). It is perhaps the most common form. This includes actions such as to:
  - Lick lips.
  - Whistle.
  - Cough.
  - Wink.

They also include having difficulty with these functions:

- Coordinating mouth and speech movements (*verbal*).
- Moving the eyes (*oculomotor*).

TREATMENT

- Generally, treatment for individuals with apraxia includes:
  - Physical therapy.
  - Occupational therapy.

- Apraxia may be a symptom of another disorder. If so, the underlying disorder should be treated. The amount of improvement for patients with apraxia varies. With therapy, some patients improve a great deal. Others may show very little improvement.

Research is continually being done to learn more about this problem.

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