

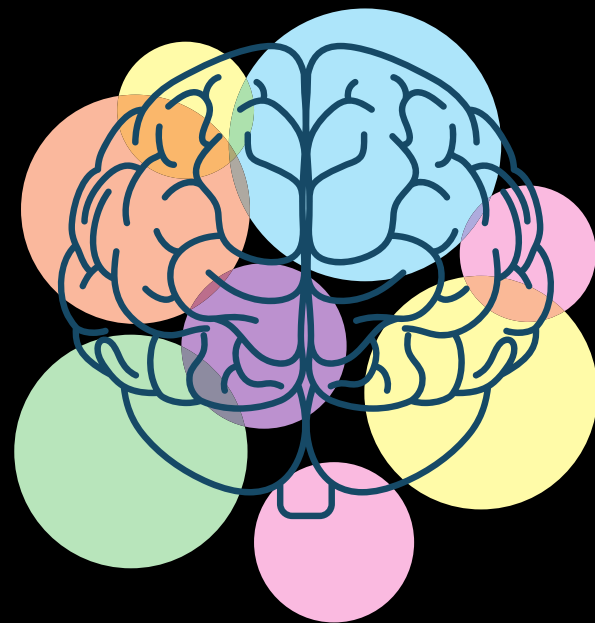


Autism, Agnosia, & Apraxia

Part 2

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What are apraxia and agnosia?



Apraxia impacts a person's ability to carry out purposeful, coordinated movements, even though they have the physical ability to perform the movements.

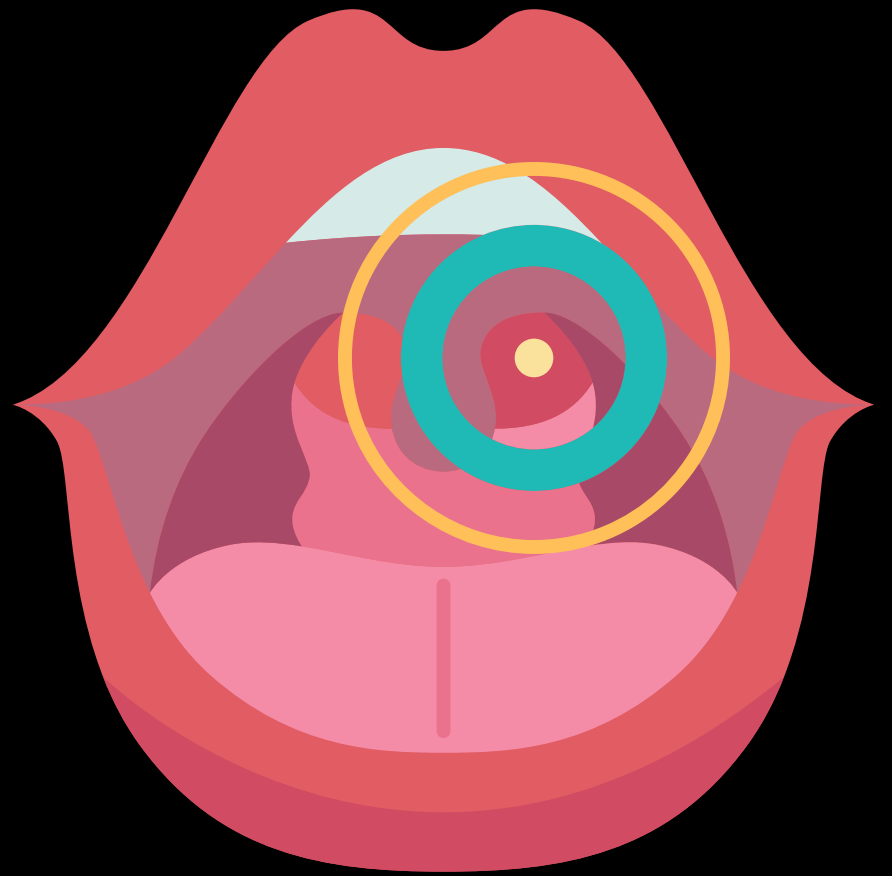
Agnosia impacts a person's ability to recognize or accurately interpret sensory information, even though they have the ability to perceive sensory information.

Apraxia and agnosia happen when there is limited or disrupted connectivity between or within parts of the brain that perform specific functions.

Apraxia of swallowing



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Apraxia of Swallowing

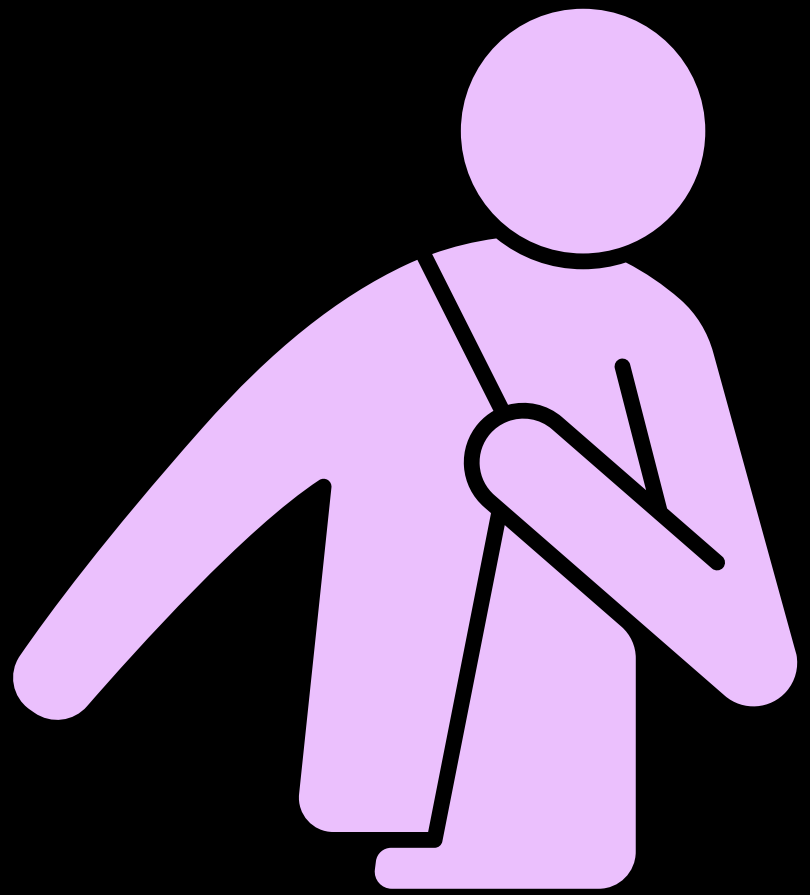
Apraxia of swallowing is difficulty with coordinating the complex movements needed to signal the muscles in the mouth and throat to swallow. It is a form of dysphagia (swallowing disorder) that is neurological and not related to any defect or injury of the throat itself.

People with apraxia of swallowing often choke on food and drinks or even their own saliva. They may not be able to voluntarily swallow, causing them to spit or drool.

Prosopagnosia



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Ideomotor Apraxia

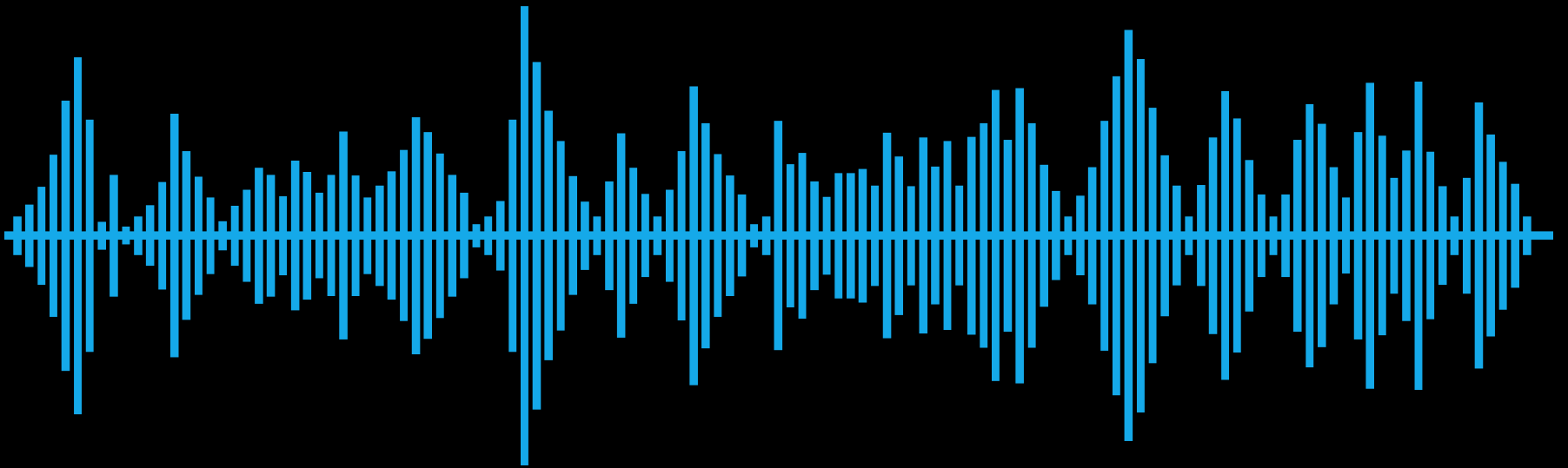
Ideomotor apraxia is difficulty performing movements on command or based on external cues. A person with ideomotor apraxia may hear a horn or siren and not be able to move out of the way. They may notice a person waving but not be able to wave back.

A person with ideomotor apraxia may begin performing a task with multiple steps and skip steps or get "stuck" after getting started. For example, they may put one leg into a pair of jeans but not be able to get the other leg in.

Phonagnosia



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Phonagnosia

Similar to Prosopagnosia, or "face blindness," phonagnosia, or "voice blindness" is being unable to identify familiar voices, even though other aspects of auditory processing are intact.

A person with phonagnosia struggles to recognize even the voices of close friends and family.

Agraphia



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Agraphia

Agraphia is an inability to produce written language, even when a person can understand language. Agraphia varies depending on the neurological source or what areas of the brain are impacted. Some people may be able to copy language as if they are drawing, but cannot spontaneously write. Some people with agraphia can type or point to letters to spell, but others cannot generate any text. Some can write numbers but not letters. Some can write letters but not spell words.



Amusia





Amusia

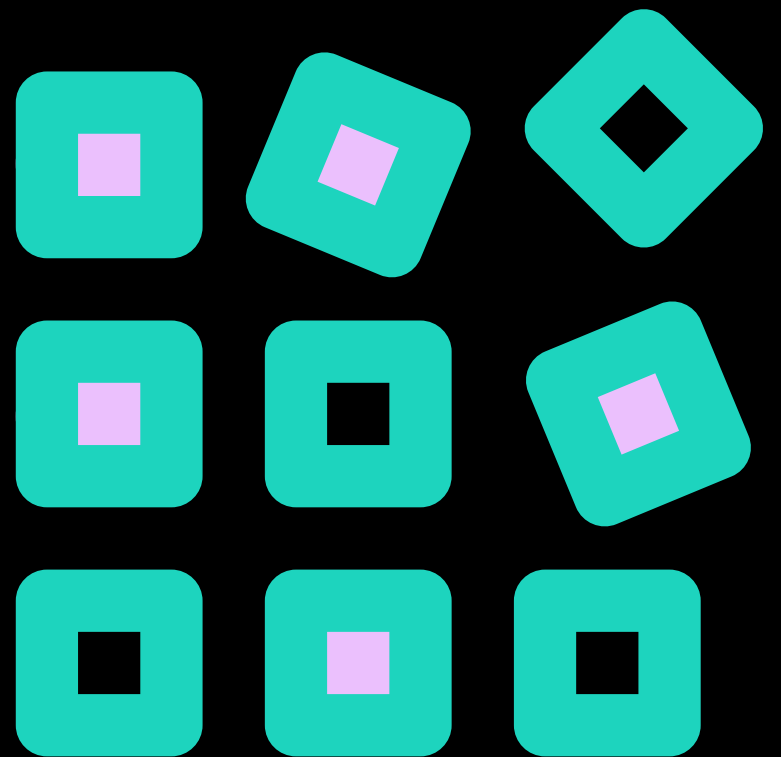
Amusia, which includes dysmusia and "tone deafness," can be experienced differently and is actually a range of disabilities that impact the ability to recognize and differentiate between tone, to experience emotions in response to music, or to engage in activities that require rhythm or timing in response to sound. Some people may be able to differentiate tone but not recognize when sound is music (dysmusia).

CONSTRUCTIONAL APRAXIA



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Constructional Apraxia



Constructional apraxia is difficulty with creating or copying simple or complex drawings, assembling objects, or performing tasks that require spatial coordination, such as fitting shapes into a puzzle or stacking blocks.

People with constructional apraxia have intact motor abilities, but their ability to plan, organize, and execute spatially-complex actions is impaired. They can struggle to copy geometric shapes, produce symmetrical drawings, or reproduce a pattern after being shown.

Scopophobia



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Scopophobia



Scopophobia is an intense and persistent fear of being watched, seen, or scrutinized by others.

People with scopophobia feel extremely uncomfortable in social contexts, particularly when they are the center of attention. They may experience physical symptoms such as sweating, shaking, heart palpitations, or gastrointestinal distress when they feel like they are being observed. They tend to avoid cameras and hide their faces with their clothes, hats, scarves, masks, hands, hair, or sunglasses.

Though described as an anxiety disorder, our experience through NeuroClastic indicates that scopophobia seems to be neurological in origin.

Coming soon



Apraxia & Agnosia

- are common in autistic and otherwise neurodivergent people but are rarely identified
- can be congenital (present from birth) or acquired (due to injury or illness)
- are often misunderstood as a lack of intelligence or as a behavior problem
- range from mild to severe
- can sometimes be improved with appropriate therapies
- unrecognized and under-accommodated agnosia can lead to traumatic experiences and low self-esteem
- are responsible for many of the behaviors targeted in intervention therapies
- several types are related to inability to retrieve specific types of memory
- need appropriate accommodations

stay tuned for part 3!