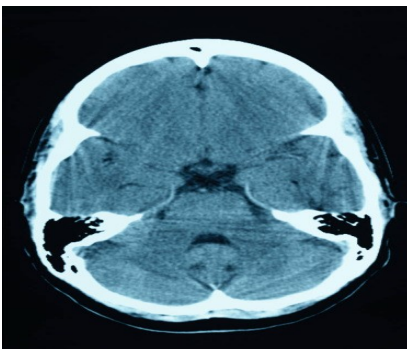


What We Know About Stammering

- ⇒ There is no known cause for stammering (also called “stuttering”), but it is accepted that it is a **neurological condition** (linked to the “wiring” in the brain present from birth) impacted by many factors including family history (genetics), general development, the environment around them and their temperament.
- ⇒ There is no “cure” for stammering, but a speech and language therapist can provide support to the individual and their family in managing their stammer in a way that suits them.
- ⇒ It is widely accepted that 5% of children under the age of five will go through a phase of stammering at some stage in their speech and language development. It is estimated that 1.2% of all school-age children stammer.



⇒ In the under 5's twice as many boys stammer as girls. This increases as the children gets older to around 4 men to each woman.

⇒ Brain imaging studies have shown significant differences between the brain activity of people who stammer, compared with fluent speakers.

⇒ A child who stammers may stammer more when increased demands are made in speaking situations or when a specific response is needed (e.g. saying his/her name, answering a register, having to use particular words).

- ⇒ Language skills are linked to stammering - children often stammer more when using long or complex words and they tend to stammer more at the start of sentences.
- ⇒ Sometimes it is more difficult for people who stammer to speak fluently when they are feeling ill, stressed, tired, excited, or upset.
- ⇒ It is often assumed that children who stammer are shy or nervous. We know this is not true, children who stammer have a range of different personality types just like everyone else
- ⇒ People who stammer can be fluent when speaking in chorus, singing or whispering.

