An International Perspective on Clinical Research in SLP Cleft Care
SIG 5

INTRODUCTION

This SIG 5 activity includes three articles from a forum aimed at sharing research conducted in clinical settings around the world. Two research articles analyzed surgical and parent-led therapy approaches for improved speech and resonance outcomes. A third tutorial described characteristics needed in an evaluation to analyze clinically obtained data for research purposes.

The first research article is based in Brazil. It demonstrates positive long-term outcomes in children with hypernasality/velopharyngeal dysfunction using the Sommerlad procedure of palatal re-repair to treat residual velopharyngeal insufficiency. The reported scores were in the categories of: “hypernasality, global impression of velopharyngeal function, and/or active speech symptoms.” Overall, this study shows significant improvement in a large percentage of children, with less effect on older individuals ages 17–22 years.

The second research article includes parents from a previously published two-center study in Ireland and the United Kingdom. The aim was to analyze parents’ experiences with parent-led articulation therapy (PLAT) following in-depth training. After a detailed outline is provided regarding inclusion and teaching of the participants, four main themes are identified. These include growth of parents, undertaking PLAT, changes in children, and the future. Ultimately, the majority of parents are in favor of a parent-led therapy approach with the caveat that in-depth training and direct supervision from a speech-language pathologist is needed.

The third article, a tutorial, addresses the research–clinical practice gap. A description is provided of a perceptual speech assessment protocol for cleft palate speech, to enable clinical data to be used for research purposes. The article provides detail related to determining the most appropriate standardized assessment tools as well as the best ways to collect and analyze this data. Further details related to implementation within the clinical setting are outlined. The data is easily accessible through networking between cleft teams and Sweden’s national cleft lip and palate registry, making retrospective research attainable in a clinical setting.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- describe the instruments and procedures involved in the evaluation of velopharyngeal function
- analyze the challenges and benefits from a parent’s perspective in providing therapy at home under the supervision of an SLP
- apply necessary steps for reliable assessment of cleft palate speech
CONTENTS

Palate Re-Repair for Velopharyngeal Insufficiency Treatment: A Long-Term Auditory-Perceptual Assessment of Speech by Bruna Mara Adorno Marmontel Araújo, Andressa Sharliene Carneiro da Silva, Carlos Eduardo Bertier, Telma Vidotto de Sousa Brosco, Renata Paciello Yamashita, Ana Claudia Martins Sampaio-Teixeira, and Inge Elly Kiemle Trindade

Parent Experiences of Undertaking Therapy for Cleft Palate Speech Disorders Following In-Depth Training by Debbie Sell, Claire O'Rourke, and Triona Sweeney

Perceptual Assessment of Cleft Palate Speech—Bridging the Gap From Research to Clinical Practice—the Swedish Perspective by Kristina Klintö and Anette Lohmander

PROGRAM HISTORY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Start date: September 5, 2023
End date: September 5, 2028

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the learning assessment on or before September 5, 2028.

This course is offered for 0.35 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).