

Frequency of apical and laminal /s/ in normal and post-glossectomy patients
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American English can be produced with two types of /s/: apical or laminal tongue shape. These shapes differ in that the apical gesture requires tongue tip elevation and the laminal does not. Post-glossectomy speakers, who have lost a unilateral section in the tongue body along the outer edge, lose innervation to the tongue tip. We hypothesize that post-glossectomy patients, even those with resections that do not cross the midline, will be more likely to use laminal tongue shapes due to reduced control of the tongue tip. This study examines /s/-type, palate height and related parameters in 24 controls and 13 patients with lateral resections. Since palate parameters may also affect which /s/ a speaker uses, MRI data and dental casts are used to study /s/-type and palate height. Preliminary results show that palate height affects choice of /s/ in controls, but not in patients. Patients tend to use laminal /s/.