Abstract

Title: The Apraxia of Speech Rating Scale: A Tool for Diagnosis and Description of AOS

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The diagnosis of acquired apraxia of speech (AOS) as well as progressive apraxia of speech is well accepted in the speech pathology clinical and research communities. Progressive AOS is less recognized in the Neurology community as one of the phenotypes of neurodegenerative disease. This is due in part to the lack of any biomarkers, making observations of speech characteristics the primary method of identifying AOS.   Although auditory perceptual judgments are vulnerable to many problems, quantification of the presence and severity of specific variables may provide more explicit evidence for the presence of AOS. This paper describes the Apraxia of Speech Rating Scale, designed to document the presence and severity of each of 16 characteristics commonly reported to be associated with the diagnosis of AOS, and reports initial validity and reliability data. Results demonstrate ASRS scores reliably differentiate individuals with AOS and correlates with clinical judgment of severity. Specificity was calculated to be 100%, with sensitivity calculated at 96%.   Discussion focuses on how the use of scales such as the ASRS will facilitate better subject description in AOS research, and reports the next steps planned to further demonstrate the validity and reliability of the ASRS for clinical and research purposes.