

Patient Reported Outcome Measures in Dysarthria Intervention

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This presentation describes two trends in healthcare service delivery that may influence the future in field of dysarthria intervention: (1) the movement from evidence-based care to value-based care including evidence of intervention effectiveness, perceived value by the patients/clients and their families, and relative cost and (2) the increasing availability of patient reported outcomes measures. These trends point to the need to incorporate patient reports in our intervention studies by asking them about the value of our interventions. From 2001 to 2007, the dysarthria writing committee of the Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences published a series of 7 systematic reviews evaluating articles focusing on specific components of speech production, such as velopharyngeal dysfunction, or intervention for specific conditions, such as spasmodic dysphonia. We examined these systematic reviews and tallied the proportion of studies that included the various types of patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures. Only a minority of dysarthria intervention studies (0-31%) included any PROs. Although PROs were more common in studies of neurologic voice disorders, they often were not of high psychometric quality and were categorized as either anecdotal or as informal (unpublished) scales. Clinical researchers should consider adding patient perspectives to the outcome measures intervention studies.