

Effects of Repeated Practice and Rate Control Treatment on  
Sound Production in Acquired Apraxia of Speech  
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Treatment for acquired apraxia of speech (AOS) most often focuses on improving sound production. Rate control or pacing treatments for AOS have recently been reported to result in increased accuracy of sound productions without explicit instructions concerning articulation (Brendel & Ziegler, 2008; Mauszycki & Wambaugh, 2008; Wambaugh & Martinez, 2000). In addition, such treatments may result in improvements in durational aspects of speech (Brendel & Ziegler).

Very little is known about the contributions of specific components of any AOS treatment regime. With respect to AOS pacing treatments, it has not been demonstrated that pacing or rate/rhythm control is critical to the outcome of improved articulation. Specifically, repeated practice alone may result in similar improvements.

The purpose of the current investigation was to examine the effects of repeated practice and repeated practice *plus* rate control on consonant production accuracy in three speakers with moderate AOS and aphasia. A single-subject combined multiple baseline and ABCA design was employed. Results varied across speakers, although all displayed substantial improvements in accuracy with repeated practice alone. Rate control treatment was not necessary in some cases because criterion levels of performance were achieved with repeated practice alone. When applied, rate control treatment resulted in additional gains.