Intensive voice treatment of dysarthria secondary to stroke

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This study was designed to detect treatment effects of LSVT® on communication behaviors of five participants (Ps) with dysarthria secondary to stroke. A Phase I multiple single-subject A-B-A research design was used. Increases in mean SPL were statistically significant for sustained "ah" and speech tasks following treatment. Measures of perturbation revealed improved phonatory stability and 8/8 listeners indicated a preference for post-treatment speech samples for all Ps. In addition, acoustic measurement of vowel space increased following treatment indicating that articulatory gestures of the tongue during a speaking task also improved. The data demonstrated that the Ps with chronic stroke included in this study changed communication behaviors following intensive voice treatment, a modality of treatment not typically incorporated in the treatment of dysarthria with this level of intensity.