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Title: Validity of Phonetic and Prosodic Subtypes of PAOS Using the ASRS-3

Abstract

The Apraxia of Speech Rating Scale (ASRS-1 and ASRS-2) is a valid tool for discriminating the presence and severity of Progressive Apraxia of Speech (PAOS). Recent research has identified two clinically distinct subtypes of PAOS. Phonetic PAOS is predominated by sound distortions, while Prosodic PAOS is characterized by slow and frequently segmented speech. Because Phonetic and Prosodic subtypes may differ markedly in their progression patterns, distinguishing these subtypes is clinically important. Earlier versions of the ASRS included observations of both phonetic and prosodic errors, but items targeting such observations were distributed across the scale. Therefore, a revision was undertaken to reorganize the scale to facilitate this distinction. This paper reports how well the ASRS-3 identifies phonetic and prosodic subtypes of PAOS and examines scoring agreement with a clinician unfamiliar with ASRS scoring. Results indicate good inter-rater reliability for both phonetic and prosodic features. ASRS-3 type analysis was in agreement with independent clinical judgment for all but one speaker. These results, along with earlier studies, indicate that the ASRS-3 may be useful not only to identify the presence and severity of AOS, but also to identify subtypes that may be important to clinical prognosis and management.