TREATING PARKINSONIAN DYSARTHRIA WITH THE LSVT_LOUD METHOD: HOW EFFICACIOUS IS IT?

S. Sapir
Communication Sciences and Disorders, Haifa University, Israel
sapir@research.haifa.ac.il

Background. Many individuals with Parkinson`s disease (IWPD) suffer from voice and speech disorders, collectively termed hypokinetic dysarthria (HKD). The dysarthria does not respond well to medical intervention. The Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT) has been purported by many researchers to be the only behavioral treatment, as of today, that has been deemed "efficacious" and "clinically proven" for HKD. Yet other researchers have questioned the validity of these conclusions
Purpose. To resolve the debate over the LSVT efficacy
Methods. The presenter will 1) review research findings pertaining to the unique nature of the HKD and the prognostic obstacles inherent in the HKD (Sapir, 2014); 2) present analysis of previously reported data in the scientific literature, and 3) critically interpret these data with respect to the specific deficits underlying the HKD (especially deficits in internal cueing, attention to action, automaticity, and sensorimotor processing).
Results. The present findings indicate that there are serious flaws in the methodology and inappropriate interpretation of the research findings by the proponent of those who claim LSVT to be efficacious.
Conclusions: As of now, the LSVT has not been proven efficacious; thus the claim that it is "clinically proven", is not justified, nor the high cost of this method of treatment. There is a need for extensive research to demonstrate the efficacy of the LSVT, especially with regards to long- term maintenance of treatment outcome.