



Conscious eye movement to enable fluence in also improves the speakers experience of living with a developmental stammer/stutter (OASES-A): Linking data from case series to existing neurological evidence

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Abstract

Developmental stammering / stuttering is classified by the World Health Organization as a disability, when its severity is such as to markedly disturb the fluency of speech. (World Health Organisation, 2010). While there is a lack of consensus regarding prevalence of DS, conservatively the childhood prevalence can be placed at 5% and Adult prevalence at .8 – 1% of the World's population. The inability to agree is partly due to differences in how stuttering is defined, why it occurs, differences in how stuttering severity is measured (See Yairi and Ambrose 2013). The five participants in this study were required to complete 5 weeks of 10 minutes practice twice per day. They were taught a specific technique to improve speech fluency. The participants were assessed at base line, post intervention and at three month follow up. One of the assessment tools was the Overall Assessment of the Speakers Experience of Stuttering – a tool developed in line with the ICF guidelines. Current neurological evidence is reviewed and related to current theoretical approaches and reframed using a new paradigm.

Biography

Hilary McDonagh (Dowling-Long) has just completed a Research involving an exploratory case series to test the effectiveness of using eye movements to regulate fluent speech. Participants were assessed before intervention, post intervention and three months post completion. She has just commenced her PhD journey to test this intervention's effectiveness at Pilot Clinical Trial. She has presented at two international Stuttering Conferences (ICOS and Oxford Dysfluency Congress), published a Focus Article and a Case series (as part of conference proceedings). Her research has been made possible by Irish Research Council as part of an Employment Based Postgraduate Funding Scheme.



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