Communication disabilities after right hemispheric stroke: Impact of a pluridisciplinary group rehabilitation based on an acting course

N. Godet*, S. Dutoit, C. Terracol, S. Bodin, K. Prod’homme-Labrunee, X. De boissezon
Service de MPR, hôpital Rangueil, CHU de Toulouse, TSA 50032, 31059 Toulouse, France
*Corresponding author.
E-mail address: godet.natacha@gmail.com.

Keywords: Right-hemisphere-damaged persons; Pragmatic; Dramatic art; Communication; Quality of life
We are studying the interest of dramatic art techniques in the rehabilitation of pragmatic disorders associated with right hemisphere damage. Indeed, right-hemisphere-damaged persons may present communicative disorders that we consider with a pragmatic perspective. These deficits may affect conversational interactions in everyday life, so right-hemisphere-damaged persons may suffer from a communicative handicap. Thus, the everyday life context and quality of life must be considered in assessment and rehabilitation. Indeed, beyond improvement of disorders, treatment must be oriented toward satisfaction in communication, enabling maintained social links and social reintegration. In speech therapy, recommendations about treatment for this population mention the relevance of the group context and role-playing activities to test communication exchanges similar to everyday life.

Problematic/Hypothesis.– What is the relevance of a multidisciplinary rehabilitation group using dramatic art techniques (named in French “GRP communication”) in the treatment of pragmatic deficits of right-hemisphere-damaged patients? First hypothesis: GRP communication improves pragmatic skills of right-hemisphere-damaged patients in comprehension and expression. Second hypothesis: GRP communication improves quality of life of right-hemisphere-damaged patients.

Method.– A GRP communication workshop was conducted. Patients participating in the study were assessed before and after rehabilitation in order to ascertain changes in pragmatic performances in situations of evaluation and in communication in everyday life. Evaluation of the impact of pragmatic impairments in everyday life required the creation of a questionnaire, called COMSO (COMmunication and SOcial relations). Quality of life was also assessed.

Results/Discussion.– Our research has revealed improvement of pragmatic skills and of quality of life, mainly in the social domain. Without control subjects, we have come to an assumption of effectiveness of GRP communication.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2012.07.549

CO41-007-e

The social networks questionnaire: Clinical case

V. Quentin*, J. Pite
Service des pathologies neurologiques congénitales, institut national de médecine physique et de réadaptation de l’enfant, hôpitaux de Saint-Maurice, 12-14, rue du Val-d’Osne, 94415 Saint-Maurice, France
*Corresponding authors.
E-mail address: v.quentin@hopitaux-st-maurice.fr.

Keywords: Alternative communication; “Social Networks” questionnaire; Serious disorders with speech production; Speech
About people presenting serious disorders with speech production, communication troubles are common. The speech therapist assessment evaluates the language skills and the functionality of the current communication. The « Social networks » questionnaire (Sarah Blackstone et Mary Hunt Berg) is a tool for assessing functional communication which enables to broaden traditional assessments and to plan the interventions in the field of the communication.

A modification of the initial version of the « Social Networks » questionnaire has been considered as part of a speech therapist dissertation (Céline Béra, Audrey Odiau-Lamiset). The goal was to make this tool more useful as an additional assessment. It is divided in two questionnaires: one addressed to the family, and the other to the professionals. A summary card using graphics was also created to enable a better visualization of information. The young W is suffering from a cerebral palsy with a serious orofacial motor affection. The new version of the questionnaire was used in his assessment, to guide interventions to develop communication skills in the long term and involve the family in identifying communication objectives. It was thus possible to observe a variation in the dynamics of interactions depending on the situation of communication and people, which evolve during the life of the individual. This questionnaire enabled to list such as communication skills and the several expression resources employed by the child with their effectiveness. It also enables to list the several kinds of communication partners in five circles. To conclude, we could notice the importance of both the diversity of contacts and communication situations and also the aptitude, and linguistic and psycho-emotional level of the person, for the success of an alternative communication project; a multidisciplinary reflection is essential.

The questionnaire helps develop lines of work:
– work around psycho-emotional independence;
– development of a therapeutic project of setting up an alternative communication adjusted to the needs of the patient and his circle.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2012.07.550