Impact of a pluridisciplinary group rehabilitation based on
Communication disabilities after right hemispheric stroke:
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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.
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The social networks questionnaire: Clinical case
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Keywords: Alternative communication; “Social Networks” questionnaire;
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About people presenting serious disorders with speech production, commun-
ication 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 competence, 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.
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