

Spoken language development and rehabilitation programs for children with Cochlear Implant

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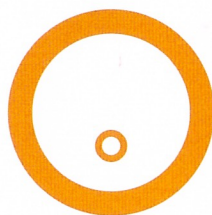
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Vortrag: Spoken language development and rehabilitation programs for children with Cochlear Implant

Science and technology develop many sophisticated ways of communication. Language is the mighty tools that allows us to actively participate in different situations. Cochlear implants (CI) have brought new possibilities in language development in prelingually deafened children. Advances in CI technology enable better starting position for development of spoken language capabilities on par with those of normal hearing (NH) children, although rehabilitation of hearing impaired children remains a challenging task. New technology and new possibilities given through CI are not enough to meet this goal. Many CI recipient children will lag behind their NH peers if they do not receive complex rehabilitation support pre and post implantation. The verbotonal system is an original scientific theory defined by academician Petar Guberina. In the development of speech, the whole human body takes part in the speech perception and expression. Speech is viewed through a structure of sound and movement with the body as the source and the brain as a processor of content and its form. Spacioceptive approach is fostered in diagnostic and rehabilitation. Spacioception represent the totality of our senses for space perception including touch, proprioception, vestibular sense, hearing, sight. This theoretical category is based on premise that speech and thinking share the same imaginary space (Pansini, 1972). To be able to understand the speech structure and grammar child need to understand the space around him. So, speech and movement do not exist as separate entities. They are regulated by rhythms and modulated by emotions. Lexical means of expression are lexical and grammar system and non-lexical are intonation, rhythm, intensity, tension, pause, mimicry, gestures, positions and tension of the body. Such an understanding leads to polysensoric, i.e. it refers to a integration of hearing, sight, touch, smell, taste, proprioception and balance. But, everything is always guided by human affectivity (Guberina, 2010). Affectivity is the basic condition for cognitive, motor, language and speech development. In the present lecture we will review the Verbotonal method rehabilitation procedures performed for several decades in SUVAG Polyclinic Zagreb and its impact on speech outcomes.