NSW Speech Pathology
Evidence Based Practice Interest Group

Critically Appraised Topic (CAT)

CLINICAL BOTTOM LINE:
Repetition therapy improves word finding difficulties for some people with aphasia but not all.

Background and Objectives:
Repetition therapy is a common approach to treating word finding difficulties but is it effective?

Clinical Question [patient/problem, intervention, (comparison), outcome]:
Is repetition therapy effective in improving lexical access/word finding difficulties (in people with aphasia)?

Search Terms/Systems:
Terms: Speech and language therapy, Repetition, Aphasia, Word-finding
Systems: OVID, Medline, PsychInfo, Google Scholar

Selection Criteria: Publications which examined repetition therapy in people with aphasia. 4 publications were included all of which had NH&MRC level of evidence IV.

Results:
- Effectiveness of repetition therapy depends on the person’s co-occurring impairments, severity and whether impairment is acute or chronic
- The method of repetition (ie errorless or errorful) may also have an impact on the effectiveness of repetition therapy
- Evidence from the CATs suggests that it is possible to gain some long term benefit (5-12 weeks) from repetition therapy
- Further research is needed regarding effectiveness of repetition therapy

References:

Appraised By: Adult Language EBP Group
Date: December 2007