

Evaluating Clinical Evidence

SPLH 880 Clinical Treatment of Phonological Disorders

Storkel (Spring 2005)

1. Participant information (#,age, type of disorder, characteristics of disorder)
2. Independent variable (what was manipulated)
3. Dependent variable (what outcome was measured)
4. Treatment overview (type of treatment provided, intensity of treatment, length of treatment)
5. Analysis (statistical, visual inspection of figures)
6. Results (main findings including magnitude & clinical/statistical significance)
7. Conclusion (take-home message)
8. Threats to internal validity (e.g., was the assessment of participants to tx randomized?; were the tx groups similar to one another at start?; was there a baseline measurement?; was the follow-up long enough to show change/maintenance?)
9. Threats to external validity (e.g., are the participants similar to your own?; are clinically relevant outcomes reported?; is the therapy feasible in your practice?)
10. Level of evidence (adapted from Reilly 2004b)
 - a. Meta-analysis or systematic review of multiple well-designed studies
 - b. Randomized study with control/comparison group/condition (e.g., standard treatment vs. new treatment; each participant had the opportunity to be assigned to either group)
 - c. Prospective small -n study with control/comparison group/condition (e.g., standard treatment vs. new treatment; alternating treatment design; multiple baseline design)
 - d. Retrospective small-n study with control/comparison group/condition (e.g., Child A received Treatment 1 and Child B received Treatment 2; single case study with control behaviors)
 - e. Expert committee report, consensus conference, clinical experience of respected authorities, preliminary single case report without controls (Note that some committee reports do provide a systematic review of the literature so they could be counted as "a" above if detailed analyses are provided)
11. Locating other evidence on this topic (What search terms & databases would you use?)
12. Other supporting evidence (paste references from search; list number of other articles)

13. Other contradictory evidence (paste references from search; list number of other articles)

14. Do the assigned secondary readings support or contradict the primary reading? (Explain)

15. Judgment

a. Demonstrated Effectiveness

- i. 2+ control/comparison mid-large group studies conducted by different research teams converging on similar finding
- ii. Series of control/comparison single-subject studies converging on similar finding

b. Probable Efficacy

- i. 2+ control/comparison mid-large group studies conducted by same research team converging on similar finding
- ii. Series of control/comparison single-subject studies converging on similar finding