
Editorial/Editorial

The second issue of *Jornal da Sociedade Brasileira de Fonoaudiologia – JSBFa*, year 2011, concentrates several researches about speech-language pathology evaluation with diverse focus of analysis. This variety show the wide scope of our academic background and the challenge speech-language pathologists are facing in the next decades, emphasizing the multidisciplinary nature of required knowledge. The issue is composed by 17 contributions, of which 13 Original Articles, two Case Reports, one text about Evidence-Based Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and one Brief Communication.

Audiology is represented by four originals articles. Two contributions analyzed auditory processing, one on children and one on rural workers. The article **Auditory processing evaluation in children born preterm**, from **Gallo, Dias, Pereira, Azevedo, and Sousa**, verified the performance of children born preterm on auditory processing evaluation, concluding that these children have worse performance than children born full-term. They also correlated the data with behavioral hearing assessment carried out at 12 months of age, finding that the delay in sound localization at this age is associated to deficits on the physiological mechanism of temporal processing in the auditory processing evaluation carried out between 4 and 7 years.

The study **Auditory temporal processing assessment in rural workers exposed to organophosphate pesticides**, from **Camarinha, Frota, Pacheco-Ferreira, and Lima**, analyzed 43 rural workers exposed to organophosphate pesticides and identified alteration on temporal resolution and temporal order abilities, even when they showed normal peripheral auditory thresholds.

The study **Percentage of Consonants Correct (PCC) in children with and without hearing loss**, from **Zanichelli and Gil**, analyzed 15 children with hearing impairment and 15 with normal hearing and verified that children with hearing loss have lower PCC indexes when compared to normally hearing children. The average performance and imitation are influenced by time in therapy and time using hearing aids.

The study **Comparison between classification criteria of audiometric findings in elderly**, from **Tenório, Guimarães, Flores, and Iório**, analyzed the records of 140 elderly subjects, with average age of 69.75 years, concluding that the classification criteria suggested by Davis and Silverman and by the BIAP recommendation presented similar results. However, the BIAP criteria are more sensible to detect hearing loss in elderly subjects.

The Language area is represented by six originals articles. The study **Predictability of sentences used in the assessment of speech intelligibility in dysarthria**, from **Alexandre, Barreto, and Ortiz**, analyzed 120 volunteers and had as conclusion that the studied protocol has the predominance of low predictability sentences for assessment of speech intelligibility, suggesting that these sentences might be reliably used for assessing intelligibility.

The article **Investigating language acquisition disorders based on the complaints**, from **Tamanaha, Oshiro, Kawano, Okumura, Ghiringhelli, Minaguchi, Rosa, Sanchez, and Perissinoto**, analyzed complaints commonly reported by parents of 55 children with language disorders and concluded that although low performance verbal production complaints are more often, the impairment in verbal comprehension are also evident in these children.

The article **Phonological sensitivity to rhyme and alliteration in preschoolers with phonological disorder**, from **Costa, Souza, and Ávila**, evaluated 56 preschool boys and girls with phonological

disorder and identified these children as having worse overall phonological sensitivity performance than children with normal speech; however, both groups presented higher score for the segment of alliteration and there was no difference between identifying and producing tasks.

The article **Performance of students with dyslexia, learning disabilities and learning difficulties in metaphonological abilities tests (PROHFON)**, from **Germano, and Capellini**, had as purpose to develop a procedure of metaphonological evaluation, and characterize the performance of students with developmental dyslexia, learning disabilities and difficulties, and good readers. The study concluded that syllabic and phonemic abilities differentiated the studied groups and pointed out the PROHFON contribution to characterize the scholars' metaphonological profile.

The research **Syntactic awareness: probable correlations with central coherence and non-verbal intelligence in autism**, from **Varanda, and Fernandes**, evaluated this aspects on ten subjects diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder, who used oral language for communication, and observed that there was no relationship between the performance in syntactic awareness and central coherence, non-verbal intelligence and social interaction deficits, in communication and interest patterns of subjects with autism. The results suggest that these children seem to follow the development pattern of typically developing 6-year-old children in syntactic awareness abilities, only delayed.

The article **Mean length utterance (MLU) as a measure of language development of children with Down syndrome**, from **Marques, and Limongi**, characterize 15 children with Down syndrome (DS) and conclude that MLU can be used as an identification measure of general linguistic development.

Voice area is represented by three researches, one with children, one about autonomic nervous system dysfunction in individuals with behavioral dysphonia and one analyzing vocal behavior of receptive telemarketers. The study **Perceptual, acoustical and vocal self-perception analyses in children**, from **Oliveira, Teixeira, Gama, and Medeiros**, analyzed 70 children and identified 37.14% of prevalence of dysphonic children, with negative self-perception of their voices, voice quality predominantly rough and/or breathy, and altered acoustic measures, comparing to non-dysphonic children.

The article **Signs and symptoms of autonomic dysfunction in dysphonic individuals**, from **Park and Behlau**, evaluated 128 adults divided into two groups: behavioral dysphonia and without vocal complaints and concluded that individuals with behavioral dysphonia presented higher occurrence of neurovegetative signs and symptoms, particularly those with direct relationship with voice, indicating greater lability of the autonomic nervous system in these subjects.

The study **The vocal behavior of telemarketing operators before and after a working day**, from **Amorim, Bommarito, Kanashiro and Chiari**, evaluated 55 telemarketers working in the same company and highlighted high indexes of vocal symptoms after the work shift, even though there is no differences between pre and post-work shift in auditory-perceptual and acoustic assessments of voice.

There are two interesting case reports presented. The first one, entitled **Fragile X syndrome with Dandy-Walker variant: a clinical study of oral and written communicative manifestations**, from **Lamônica, Ferraz, Ferreira, Prado, Abramides and Gejão**, reported the findings in oral and written communication from a 15 years old boy with this syndrome and showed the interference of the striking association of the symptoms of Fragile X syndrome, with structural changes in the central nervous system, development of communication skills, learning to read and write, and social integration of the individual.

The second one, about **Spinocerebellar ataxia type 7**, from **Dumke, Klagenberg and Mengelberg**, described a 34-year-old woman who referred imbalance when walking, speech difficulties,

headache, dizziness, and dysphagia, showing normal hearing thresholds and labyrinth alterations, indicating central vestibular system affection.

The research **Systematic review of delayed auditory feedback effectiveness for stuttering reduction**, from **Andrade and Juste**, is an Evidence-Based Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology research having as purpose to perform a systematic review of researches related to the effects of delayed auditory feedback over speech fluency in individuals who stutter. As conclusion the authors attribute to the limitations pointed out in the reviewed papers the impossibility to generalize the effectiveness of this device in reducing stuttering.

Finally, a brief communication **Time of pragmatic analysis in children with specific language impairment**, from **Befi-Lopes, Vieira and Cáceres**, verified whether the use of a shorter filmed sample influences the results of pragmatic assessment in children with language impairment. They concluded that pragmatic assessment can be reduced to five-minute samples, as long as the first minutes are discarded and the medial or final minutes are used for analysis.

I take this opportunity to highlight that many of these articles are the result of researches on graduate programs, presented as preliminary versions on Brazilian Congresses of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in recent years, revealing the importance of this path to improve the quality of our scientific output.

The second issue of 2011 volume has a detailed and interesting overview of various tools and procedures for speech-language pathology clinical assessment.

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