

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN RELATION TO PERSONS WITH APHASIA IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE SPEECH THERAPY PREVIEW

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Introduction

- Currently in the process of rehabilitation is emphasized not only the quality of life of persons with acquired disorder of phatic functions involved in the ability to speak, read, write, understand abstract concepts - aphasia, but also affect of disorder to social functioning and pragmatic aspects of communication.
- The aim of the paper is:
 - To find out the latest information on the provision of cognitive rehabilitation by clinical speech therapists in the Czech Republic with regard to the application of cognitive rehabilitation for people with aphasia.
 - To identify the use of interdisciplinary cooperation between speech therapists and other experts in the field of rehabilitation

Introduction

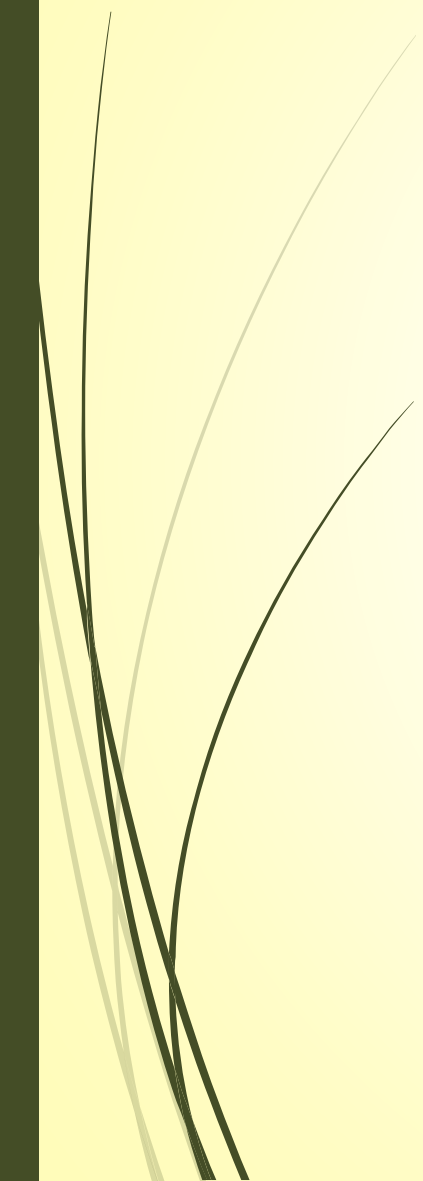
- Speech therapy of persons with aphasia should include a therapy of non-linguistic cognitive function which are memory, attention, executive functions and visuospatial abilities.
- The need of non-linguistic assessment of cognitive abilities in persons with aphasia is emphasized in order to maximize the profit from the therapy (Votruba, Rapport, Withman, Johnson and Langenecker, 2013).

Introduction

- Deficits in some non-linguistic cognitive areas may also disrupt the recovery process of language skills as well as the process of coping with the disability (Seniów, Litwin and Leśniak, 2009).
- The particular parts of executive functions seem to be important in the initiation of a new theme, planning and controlling our communication performance including changes in communication strategies, which leads to the successful communication of information (Ramsberger, 2005).



Introduction

- Depending on the previous facts, the interdisciplinary cooperation with psychologists seem to be necessary
 - The results of psychological assessment of persons with aphasia can significantly affect the efficiency of speech therapy intervention
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Methodology

- A questionnaire has been chosen as a data collection method
- The items of questionnaire surveyed the information about
 - speech therapy intervention and cognitive rehabilitation in persons with aphasia
 - interdisciplinary cooperation between speech therapists and other experts in the field of rehabilitation
- 516 questionnaires were distributed to speech therapists in the Czech Republic
- The research was realized during september 2014

Results

- Overall, it was filled in 147 questionnaires.
- The total number of applicable questionnaires was 122.

Results

- Speech therapists in the Czech Republic provide intervention to persons with aphasia on average per year:
- 20 and more persons (n = 57, 46.7 %)
- 1 to 5 persons (n = 25, 20.5 %)
- 5 to 10 persons (n = 23, 18.6 %)

Results

- According to respondents, cognitive rehabilitation of person with aphasia should be performed by a psychologist, a speech therapists or occupational therapist.
- Regarding the definition of cognitive functions, speech therapists usually agree on the areas of memory, attention, thinking, learning and executive functions.
- Orientation, imagination, perception, emotions, social skills, fine motor skills and verbal fluency was also ordered between cognitive function.

Results

- In the speech therapy intervention, the greatest emphasis is given to impairment of memory (n=42, 34.2%) and thought (n=43, 35.2%)
- Using computer-assisted cognitive rehabilitation is not yet common. The speech therapists use computer programmes:
 - Sometimes (40 %)
 - Mostly not (24 %)
 - Never (10 %)

Results

- Speech therapists the most cooperate with neurologist (n=48, 39.3 %), at least it is reported the cooperation with a psychiatrist (n=44, 36.1%)
- Cooperation with psychologist, the most frequent responses:
 - Sometimes (n = 46, 37.7 %)
 - Mostly no, never (n = 38, 31.1 %)
- The way of cooperation with professionals varies depending on the workplace of speech therapist (consultation by phone, in person, reading reports etc.)

Results

- It would be appropriate if the speech therapists have the results of a psychological examination.
- Speech therapist have available a psychological report:
 - Always or mostly (15.6 %)
 - Sometimes (22.2 %)
 - Never (42.6 %)

Conclusions


- The results of the survey show that speech therapists in the Czech Republic, who completed the questionnaire (n=122), have knowledge of cognitive functions.
- They consider that it is important, in the treatment of aphasia, apply the non-linguistic cognitive rehabilitation and they perform this rehabilitation.

Conclusions

- By verifying of hypotheses, we concluded that the period of practice does not affect the view of speech therapists on the importance of reeducation of non-linguistic cognitive functions.
- Regarding cooperation with experts from related fields, the respondents answered that they cooperate with neurologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and psychiatrists.

Resources

- Ramsberger, G. 2005. Achieving conversational success in aphasia by focusing on non-linguistic cognitive skills: A potentially promising new approach. *Aphasiology*, 19(10-11), 1066–1073. doi: 10.1080/02687030544000254.
- Seniów, J., Litwin, M., & Leśniak, M. 2009. The relationship between non-linguistic cognitive deficits and language recovery in patients with aphasia. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, 283, 91–94. doi:10.1016/j.jns.2009.02.315.
- Votruba, K., L., Rapport, L., J., Whitman, R., D., Johnson, A., & Langenecker, S. (2013). Personality Differences among Patients with Chronic Aphasia Predict Improvement in Speech-Language Therapy. *Top Stroke Rehabil*, 20(5), 421-431. doi: 10.131/tsr2005-421.



Thank you for your attention

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