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Behavioral Voice Interventions for Persons with Parkinson's Disease

Kelly Richardson, PhD, CCC-SLP

Moderated by:
Amy Natho, MS, CCC-SLP, CEU Administrator, SpeechPathology.com



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continued

Behavioral Voice Interventions for Persons with Parkinson's Disease

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continued

continued[®]

Learning Outcomes

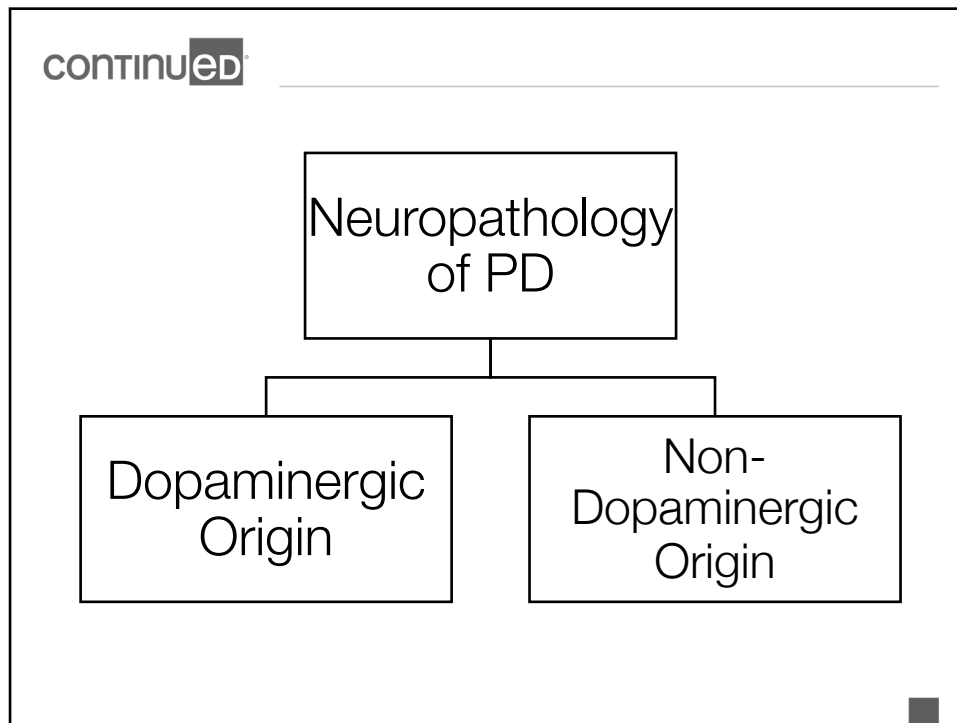
After this course, participants will be able to:

- List and describe the motor and non-motor features of Parkinson's disease.
- Describe the features of hypokinetic dysarthria.
- Describe the current evidence-based voice treatments for hypokinetic dysarthria.

continued[®]

Incidence & Prevalence of PD

- Est. 1 million in US
- Est. 7 million worldwide
- Diagnosis by exclusion (rule out other disorders)
- Medication trial supports diagnosis



continued[®]

Neuropathology of Parkinson's Disease

- Dopaminergic origin
 - Degeneration of dopamine-producing neurons is particularly evident in a part of the substantia nigra called the pars compacta
 - The decreased level of dopaminergic innervation to the striatum results in the characteristic motor symptoms of PD

Neuropathology of Parkinson's Disease

- Dopaminergic origin
 - Motor symptoms
 - Tremor
 - Rigidity
 - Akinesia/Bradykinesia
 - Postural Instability
 - Reduced amplitude of movement
 - Walking, writing, voice, resonance, breathing, articulatory gestures

Neuropathology of Parkinson's Disease

- Non-dopaminergic origin
 - Degeneration of non-dopaminergic neurotransmitters include noradrenergic, serotonergic, glutamatergic, and cholinergic systems within cortical, brainstem, and basal ganglia regions (Fox, 2013)

Neuropathology of Parkinson's Disease

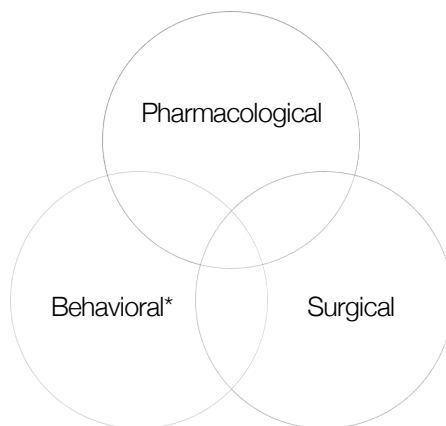
- Non-dopaminergic origin
 - Non-motor symptoms (*list is not exhaustive*)
 - Apathy
 - Anxiety
 - Fatigue
 - Cognitive deficits (e.g. attention, memory)
 - Sleep disturbance
 - Gastrointestinal disturbance
 - Olfactory disfunction

Hypokinetic Dysarthria*

- Patients with PD exhibit a high prevalence of speech and voice deficits (Darley, Aronson, & Brown, 1969)
 - Reduced loudness (2 - 4 dB decrease in SPL; Adams et al., 2006; Fox & Ramig, 1997)
 - Monoloudness/monopitch
 - Hoarse, harsh, breathy
 - Slurred/distorted speech
 - Short rushes of speech (festination)
 - Variable speech rate
 - Inappropriate pauses
 - Neurogenic dysfluencies
 - Vocal tremor
 - Shorter utterances

* Symptom presentation is heterogeneous

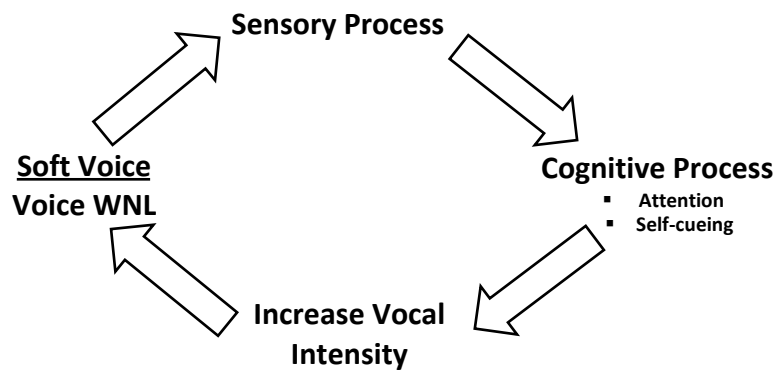
Therapeutic Options



Hypokinetic Dysarthria

- Clinically, two speech and voice symptoms are often targeted in therapy
 - Soft voice (Boutsen, Park, Dvorak & Cid, 2018; Ramig, Sapir, Fox & Countryman, 2001)
 - Speech rate (Blanchet & Hoffman, 2014; Blanchet & Snyder, 2010)
- These symptoms are likely to impact perceptions of speech intelligibility and speech naturalness

Foundation of Voice Treatment



Treatment Considerations

- Cognitive load/effort
- Sensory perception
- Fatigue
- Motivation
- Access to services
- Technological proficiency
- Neural Plasticity
 - Repetition
 - Saliency
 - Use it or lose it
 - Specificity

continued

Behavioral Voice Interventions

continued

LSVT LOUD®

- Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT) LOUD®
- In-person or telepractice (LSVT e-LOUD)
- Requires training/certification
- Began as a treatment for PD, but now includes other neurological disorders
- Intensive voice treatment:
 - 1-hour sessions, 4 days a week x 4 weeks (16 sessions)
 - Home practice on treatment/non-treatment days
 - Techniques intended to increase vocal loudness and increase communication effectiveness/speech intelligibility

continued

continued

LSVT LOUD®

- Core concepts of the program
 - **Target:** Vocal intensity (“Think Loud”)
 - **Mode:** Intense dosage and high effort
 - **Calibration:** Recalibrate sensory feedback
 - Treatment tasks involve a speech hierarchy
 - Clinician modeling (“do what I do”)
 - Daily homework and carry-over exercises
 - Quantify improvements over time (fundamental frequency, amplitude, duration)
 - Maintenance

continued

LSVT LOUD®



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continued

continued

LSVT LOUD®

▪ Clinical Outcomes:

- Vocal intensity (Ramig et al., 1995; Ramig et al., 2001a; Ramig et al., 2001b)
- Articulation (Dromey et al., 1995; Spielman et al., 2003)
- Swallowing (Sharkawi et al., 2003)
- Facial expression (Spielman, Borad, & Ramig, 2003)
- Respiratory kinematics (Huber et al., 2003)
- Aerodynamics (Ramig & Dromey, 1996)
- Vocal fold adduction (Garren et al., 2000; Smith et al., 1995)
- PET (Liotti et al., 2003)
- Voice quality (Baumgartner, Sapis, Ramig, 2001)

continued

LSVT LOUD® Maintenance

- LOUD for Life®
- Tune-up sessions
- LSVT Companion® Client Edition
- LSVT LOUD Homework Helper Videos

SpeechVive™

- The SpeechVive is a prosthetic device
- Uses an external sound to automatically elicit increased vocal intensity
- Lombard effect
- Mitigates impact of cognitive decline



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SpeechVive™

- The external sound only plays when the patient speaks
- SpeechVive employs trained speech-language pathologists to provide free training and ongoing support
- The SLP providing treatment gathers baseline data and calibrates the SpeechVive to immediately increase the patient's target sound pressure level
- Target increase is 3-5 dB SPL
- Calibration takes 5-10 minutes with specialized software
- Calibration software provides baseline and tracks data over time
- Recalibrate as needed

continued

SpeechVive™



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continued

SpeechVive™

▪ Clinical Outcomes:

- Increased vocal intensity (Matheron et al., 2017; Richardson et al., 2014; Sadagopan, Neeraja, & Huber, 2007; Stathopoulos et al., 2014)
- More efficient respiratory patterns during speech breathing (Sadagopan, Neeraja, Huber, 2007)
- Improved glottal efficiency (Stathopoulos et al., 2014)
- Improved speech intelligibility (Richardson et al., 2014)

continued

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SpeechVive™

- A recent study examined the long-term effects of the SpeechVive on respiratory and laryngeal speech functions for speakers with PD (Kiefer et al., 2019)
 - Speech breathing more efficient (higher recoil forces)
 - Speakers used more laryngeal valving to increase loudness
 - Users of the SpeechVive did not acclimate to the device

continued

SPEAK OUT!®

- Training course includes instruction on individual therapy (SPEAK OUT!®) and group therapy (The LOUD Crowd®)
- Patients attend information session prior to SPEAK OUT!®
- The program typically consists of twelve therapy sessions and daily home practice
- SPEAK OUT! emphasizes *speaking with intent*
- Six-week follow-up (review exercise and establish a daily home practice routine)
- Transition to The LOUD Crowd

continued

The LOUD Crowd®

- The LOUD Crowd
 - Attend weekly group sessions to practice SPEAK OUT! exercises
 - Maintenance through group sessions
 - Peer support
- SPEAK OUT! Refreshers
 - Meet with trained clinician every six months to evaluate progress

SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd®

- Clinical Outcomes:
 - Improved vocal intensity, cepstral peak prominence, Acoustic Voice Quality Index (AVQI), voice-related quality of life (Levitt & Walker-Batson, 2018; Boutsen et al., 2018)
 - Improvements in pitch range, sustained vowel duration, reading intelligibility, and vocal quality (Boutsen et al., 2018)
 - Long-term gains in SPL maintenance reported at 6 months and 12 months (Watts, 2016)

Choral Singing

- Growing interest in use of choral singing program to help reduce the speech and voice symptoms associated with PD (Di Benedetto et al., 2009; Elefant, Baker, Lotan, Lagesen, & Skeie, 2012)
- Physical acts of speaking and singing share overlapping neural networks (Brown, Martinez, & Parsons, 2006; C. P. Thaut, 2014; Wan, Rüber, Hohmann, & Schlaug, 2010)
 - Inferior pre- and postcentral gyrus, the superior temporal gyrus, and the superior temporal sulcus

Choral Singing

- Use of singing as a speech rehabilitation tool has been reported in treatment studies:
 - Nonfluent aphasia (Tomaino, 2012)
 - Traumatic brain injury (Baker, Wigram, & Gold, 2005)
 - Autism spectrum disorder (Wan, Rüber, Hohmann & Schlaug, 2010)
 - Apraxia of speech (Jungblut, Huber, Mais, & Schnitker, 2014)
 - Fluency impairment (Davidow, Bothe, Andreatta, & Ye, 2009)

Choral Singing

- To date, few studies available for persons with PD
- Studies include a variety of therapeutic singing protocols, treatment durations, and outcome measures
- Example protocol
 - Music Therapy Voice Protocol (MTVP)
 - Vocal warmup and singing exercise
 - 12-14 sessions

Choral Singing

- Clinical Outcomes:
 - Increased vocal intensity during singing (Elefant et al., 2012), reading (Haneishi, 2001), and conversational speech (Yinger & Lapointe, 2012)
 - Increase in pitch accuracy and vocal range (Elefant et al., 2012)
 - PRO improved speech intelligibility (Haneishi, 2001)
 - Improvements in vowel articulation (F1/F2 plot) and speech intelligibility (Higgins & Richardson, 2019)

Choral Singing

- As an emerging area of study, however, the reported data on therapeutic singing are variable
- Shih et al. (2012) reported no treatment-related changes in vocal intensity, pitch range, phonation time, maximum loudness, voice-related quality of life after 12, 90-min choral singing sessions
- Large-scale randomized controlled trials are warranted

Clear Speech

- Various forms of instruction (e.g. clear, over-enunciate, and hearing impaired)
- Other examples:
 - Say all sounds clearly and firmly – exaggerate the sounds and do not leave any sounds out
 - Make sure the lips meet firmly for b, p, and m sounds
 - Try to “explode” the sounds t, d, k, and g
 - Pause between words and remember to keep the vocal loudness up until the end of the sentence
 - Start by practicing single words, then two and three word phrases, short sentences, and paragraphs

Clear Speech

- Studies of clear speech in healthy adults have identified acoustic correlates of clear speech compared with habitual speaking (Goberman & Elmer, 2005; Lam, Tjaden, & Wilding, 2012; Tjaden & Wilding, 2004)
 - Reduced rate
 - Increased fundamental frequency
 - Increased pause frequency and duration
 - Increased loudness
 - Expansion of vowel space area

Clear Speech

- Studies investigating clear speech in healthy adults and people with hearing loss show that people can increase intelligibility by 17-26% with the cue to speak more clearly (Picheny, Durlack & Braida, 1986)
- Clear speech benefit

Clear Speech

- Clinical Outcomes for Clear Speech and PD
 - Decreased articulation rate, increased mean fundamental frequency (F_0), and increased speaking F_0 SD (Goberman & Elmer, 2005)
 - Improved speech intelligibility (Tjaden, Sussman, & Wilding, 2014)
 - Increase vocal intensity (Tjaden et al., 2014)

Altered Auditory Feedback

- Delayed auditory feedback
 - Speech signal processed with variable time delay
 - Used to help slow down speaking rate
 - May enhance intelligibility and improve fluency
 - Evidence
- Frequency altered feedback
 - Frequency-shifted acoustic signal

Questions?

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