

iCAHE JC Critical Appraisal Summary

Journal Club Details

Journal Club location	NALHN
JC Facilitator	Josie Kemp
JC Discipline	Speech Pathology

Review Question/PICO/PACO

The effectiveness of thermal tactile stimulation on labial/lip movements for people with dysarthria following stroke/acquired brain injury

P – Adults with dysarthria following stroke/acquired brain injury

I – Thermal tactile stimulation

C – Oromotor exercises/usual treatment

O - Labial/lip movements

Article/Paper

Malik, SN, Khan, MSG, Ehsaan, F & Tul-Ain, Q, 2017, 'Effectiveness of swallow maneuvers, thermal stimulation and combination both in treatment of patients with dysphagia using functional outcome swallowing scale', *Biomedical Research*, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 1479-1482.

Please note: due to copyright regulations CAHE is unable to supply a copy of the critically appraised paper/article. If you are an employee of the South Australian government you can obtain a copy of articles from the [DOHSA librarian](#).

Article Methodology: Randomised Controlled Trial

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Ques No.	Yes	Can't Tell	No	Comments
1	✓			Did the trial address a clearly focused issue? To explore the better treatment option among thermal stimulation, swallow maneuvers and the combination of both options for treatment of patients with dysphagia
2	✓			Was the assignment of patients to treatments randomised? Subjects were randomly assigned to receive: Group A received thermal stimulation, B group had swallow maneuvers and C group took combination of the both the thermal stimulation and swallow maneuvers as a treatment option. Randomization occurred through dice roll.
3			✓	Were all of the patients who entered the trial properly accounted for at its conclusion? This was not reported. Generally a flow diagram will be provided in a research paper to show the flow of participants through a study and if/when any drop-outs occur. Is it worth continuing? YES – this is an appraisal for the a journal club meeting (discussion and educational purposes).
4		✓		Were patients, health workers and study personnel 'blind' to treatment? This has not been reported. Would be impossible to blind participants and those providing the treatment, however authors may be blinded if not a therapist –none of this has been commented on in the paper.
5		✓		Were the groups similar at the start of the trial? This was not reported on in great detail. The age and gender distribution was reported in the results and table 1 however no other clinical details have been presented for baseline data. Baseline 'levels' for the treatments were reported in the results.
6	✓			Aside from the experimental intervention, were the groups treated equally? From the information reported, it appears that groups were treated equally aside from the intervention.

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7			<p>What are the results?</p> <p>Groups A, B and C are given thermal stimulation, swallow maneuvers and combination of both treatment options as a treatment option respectively. More beneficial results are seen in the C group, which was given the combination of swallow maneuvers and thermal stimulation.</p> <p>Conclusion: On the basis of results is concluded that combination of thermal stimulation and swallow maneuvers are significantly more fruitful for the treatment of dysphagia.</p>
8		✓	<p>How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?</p> <p>Precision cannot be determined based on the statistics presented in this publication – confidence intervals are required to determine precision.</p>
9	Discuss during journal club meeting		<p>Can the results be applied in your context? (or to the local population?)</p> <p>Consider whether</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Do you think that the patients covered by the trial are similar enough to the patients to whom you will apply this?, if not how to they differ?</p>
10			<p>Were all clinically important outcomes considered?</p> <p>Consider</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is there other information you would like to have seen?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If not, does this affect the decision?</p>
11			<p>Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?</p> <p>Consider</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Even if this is not addressed by the review, what do you think?</p>
12			<p>What do the study findings mean to practice (i.e. clinical practice, systems or processes)?</p>
13			<p>What are your next steps? (e.g. evaluate clinical practice against evidence-based recommendations; organise the next four journal club meetings around this topic to build the evidence base; organize training for staff, etc.)</p>
14			<p>What is required to implement these next steps?</p>

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