

Differential diagnosis of primary stuttering and normal nonfluency in children

Abstract:

Introduction: Early Diagnosis and intervention of primary stuttering is the key for prevention of chronic developmental stuttering. Normal nonfluency of children under 5 years old is an important differential diagnosis of primary stuttering. The goals of this research are finding accuracy of diagnoses on children referred to Saba speech therapy Clinic labeled as normal nonfluently and introducing more precise methods of differential diagnosis.

Materials & methods: The research method is case series study in which through simple sampling procedure stuttering children referring to Saba Clinic during 1382 & 83 were studied.

Research tools and data collection consist of: questionnaire, spontaneous speech sample recording and determining VOT using laryngograph processor.

It should be noted that due to lack of normative data of VOT, the VOT of normal subjects are analysed and compared with stutters.

Findings: Based on the numerical criteria, our findings indicated that only one of stutters was normal nonfluent and the others were stutters. VOT data of stutters also were compared to that of normal matched children. The results revealed that all of stutters had significantly ($p < 0/05$) longer VOT than normal subjects.

Conclusion: This study provides a good numeric and clinical measure for speech language pathologists for diagnosis of primary stuttering and normal nonfluency. Moreover, using VOT would help accurate diagnosis.

Key words: primary stuttering/ normal nonfluency/ voice onset time.

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