

## NASALANCE SCORES IN MANDARIN-SPEAKING CHINESE CHILDREN

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This study is aimed to develop language specific stimuli for the assessment of resonance in Mandarin and to collect nasalance scores using the newly developed stimuli in Mandarin. Besides that, this study also investigates gender and age influences on nasalance scores for each stimuli. Participants recruited were healthy Mandarin-speaking Chinese children aged 6; 0 to 7;11 years of age. Only children with hearing levels and speech and language abilities within normal limits were included. Perceptual ratings of nasality were made based on the GOS.SP.ASS.'98: Speech Profile for children whilst nasalance scores were recorded for each stimulus using the Nasometer. As a result, 50 children aged 6; 0 to 7; 11 years of age were recruited. None of the participants were perceived with abnormal nasality on the three standard stimuli: Oral Passage, Oral-Nasal Passage and Nasal Passage. In the Mandarin language, the mean nasalance score was 16.08 % (SD = 2.57, 95% CI = 15.35 – 16.81) for Oral Passage, 55.44 % (SD = 4.17, 95% CI = 54.25 – 56.63) for the Nasal Passage, and 25.20 % (SD = 3.63, 95% CI = 24.17 – 26.23) for the Oral-nasal Passage. Age and gender related differences were observed for Oral Passage only, whereas other passage did not show any age and gender related differences. Although the 1.6 % differences was statistically significant, it may not have any clinical implication. As a conclusion, this present study provides the first set of nasalance data along with the first set of standardised stimuli in the Mandarin language. The influence of language on nasalance scores is highlighted.

Lim C.T. 2011. Nasalance Scores in Mandarin-Speaking Chinese Children. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.