

THE MANAGEMENT OF SWALLOWING DISORDERS AMONG SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN MALAYSIA

Haryani Harun

This study was conducted by sending out questionnaires about the management of swallowing disorders to 72 SLPs in Malaysia, whose addresses were known. The purpose was to identify the pattern or clinical trends of SLPs in the management of swallowing disorders by)i) ascertaining the percentage of SLPs who managed swallowing disorders, ii) estimating the number of patients with swallowing disorders, iii) identifying the assessment and therapy techniques and iv) identifying the factors that influence confidence level of the SLP in the management of swallowing disorders. Approximately 61.1% (44) respondent rate was achieved with a finding that 5% (430/8268 patients) of swallowing disorder from all cases was managed by SLPs in Malaysia. The most used assessment and therapeutic technique for all these patients was oro-motor examination (100%) and compensatory technique (77.3%). It was the neurosurgeon who did the most referrals of the swallowing disordered patients to SLPs (59.1%) and the ENT specialists were the most who received the referral of swallowing disordered patients by SLPs (50%). By using chi square test, the receiving of training/clincial influenced the confidence level of SLPs in managing swallowing disordered patients ($\chi^2 = 10.063$, $p = 0.007$ ($p < 0.05$) rather than theoretical knowledge, SLPs' academic achievement and resource of the information.

Harun, H. 2005. The Management of Swallowing Disorders Among Speech Language Pathologists in Malaysia. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.