

INFLUENCE OF COMPENSATORY ARTICULATIONS ON SPEECH NASALANCE IN INDIVIDUALS WITH CLEFT PALATE

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OBJECTIVE: To investigate the influence of compensatory articulation (CA) on speech nasalance using high and low intraoral pressure stimuli in individuals with cleft palate. **MATERIAL AND METHODS:** Forty-four subjects with cleft palate±lip, of both genders, aged from 6 to 41 years were evaluated. The subjects were submitted to perceptual and nasometric evaluation of speech. The speech was perceptually assessed prior to nasometric evaluation according to the presence or absence of CA. The subjects were then divided into two groups: group 1 with CA (n =22) and group 2 without CA (n =22). The nasalance scores were determined by means of a nasometer Model 6200-3 (KayElemetricsCorp). Speech samples were composed by two groups of five sentences each: one set of sentences with a predominance of high pressure consonants (HP stimuli) and one composed exclusively of low pressure consonants (LP stimuli). The comparison between nasalance scores of HP and LP stimuli in each group was performed by the Wilcoxon test, with a significance level of 0.05. **RESULTS:** There was significant difference between mean nasalance scores of HP and LP stimuli ($p=0.01$) in the group 1, with mean values of $45\%\pm 10\%$ and $42\%\pm 10\%$, respectively. For group 2, there was no difference ($p=0.27$) between the stimuli, with mean values of $27\%\pm 17\%$ and $31\%\pm 14\%$, respectively, for the HP and LP stimuli. It was found, therefore, that the presence of compensatory articulation increases nasalance scores in the production of high pressure consonants. **CONCLUSION:** The results showed that compensatory articulation have influence on nasalance scores, particularly when using speech samples with high pressure consonants.