

PHONOLOGICAL STUDY ON CHILDREN BORN WITH CLEFT LIP AND PALATE ASSOCIATED WITH SYNDROMES

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PURPOSE: To verify the existence of phonological awareness deficits in individuals born with craniofacial malformation associated with genetic syndromes. **METHODS AND RESULTS:** 14 boys and girls with an average age of 10 years. They were divided into two groups: G1 craniofacial malformation associated with genetic syndromes (Otopalatodigital Syndrome, Velocardiofacial syndrome and Goldenhar Syndrome) and G2 children without malformation and diagnosed with disorders of speech, reading and writing and with manifestation of phonological awareness deficit. Data was collected in a speech therapy clinic, and two tests were applied to evaluate speech and language: ABFW – Child Language testing in the area of phonology and Confias – Phonological Awareness: Sequence Evaluation Instrument, within the clinical routine. The statistical test of Chi square equality was applied with a significance level of 5%. Children with craniofacial malformation associated to genetic syndromes showed signs of phonological awareness deficits; more “substitution” rather than omission of phonemes in ABFW, and greater difficulty in the following tasks of CONFIAS: provide a word beginning with a given syllable and a given sound and synthesis. Besides they presented a longer automation process. **CONCLUSIONS:** The differences found between the groups may suggest that the presence of syndromes hinders speech and language acquisition and development. We strongly recommend phonological intervention in children with isolated and/or syndrome associated cleft palate.

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