

PERCEPTUAL JUDGMENTS OF VELAR STOPS IN DIFFERENT SPEECH SAMPLES IN THE PRESENCE OF CLEFT LIP AND PALATE

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OBJECTIVE: Speech samples may influence perceptual judgments of atypical productions. The objective of study was to compare auditory perceptual judgments obtained in three different speech samples, for the presence of velar stops (target production), absence of the stops (omission) and presence of CA (compensatory articulation). **METHODS:** Three speech pathologists with experience in assessing the speech of children with CLP judged (simultaneously) audio recordings obtained from two children: one with operated CLP and another without cleft. The speech samples consisted of (a) six words combining velar stops with the vowels /i/, /a/, /u/ in the stressed position, (b) the same words embedded in a carrier phrase and (c) two sentences each with recurrence of velar stops. Each child was asked to repeat 5 times each speech sample, totaling 70 productions per child. The judges were instructed to identify the presence or absence of velar stops as well as the presence of AC. After achieving consensus in their judgments, the results obtained for each sample were analyzed. **RESULTS:** Target productions were identified in all speech samples (100%; N=70) for the control child. The occurrence of CA was observed in 84% (59/70) of all speech samples produced by the child with CLP. The recurrence of velar stops in the two sentences favored the identification of CA for both velars (100%, 10/10). For isolated words, judges identified CA in 70% (21/30) and omission in 30% (9/30) productions. For words embedded in a carrier phrase, judges identified CA in 93% (28/30) and omission in 7% (2/7) productions. **CONCLUSION:** The data suggest that the type of speech samples influences perceptual judgments. For clinical purposes, it is suggested the use of phrases with recurrence of the target sound.

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