

Role of Communication Self-Efficacy Training on the Hearing Loss-Specific Quality of Life for Both Persons with Hearing Loss and Their Communication Partners

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Purpose of the Study: There is a lack of research that has explored the role of communication self-efficacy training on hearing loss-specific quality of life in adults with hearing loss in group audiologic rehabilitation, yet alone on the hearing loss-specific quality of life of their communication partners (e.g., significant other). Communication self-efficacy refers to the beliefs that persons have about their abilities to manage their difficult communication situations. This poster session presents the treatment outcomes of the communication self-efficacy training for both persons with hearing loss (PHL) and their communication partners (CP).

Methods: Eight participants (four adults with hearing loss and four normal hearing communication partners) attended a two-day Interdisciplinary Psychosocial Group Audiologic Rehabilitation (IPGAR) workshop. The eight participants ranged in age from 62.3 months to 81 years, 10 months with a mean of 71 years, 7 months. The ethnicity of the eight participants included six that were Caucasian, one that was Asian/Pacific Islander, and one that was Hispanic. All participants were retired with a minimum college education with a bachelor's degree. The IPGAR workshop involved a series of evidence-based interventions including short lectures, communication strategies training, psychosocial exercises and interactive group discussions relevant to the mutually established shared goals for each couple. Treatment outcomes for PHLs were measured from self-report assessments of the Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly (HHEI), Self-Assessment of Communication (SAC), Self-efficacy for Situational Management Questionnaire (SESMQ) and IPGAR Workshop Evaluation for Persons with Hearing Loss. Treatment outcomes for CPs were measured from self-report assessments of the Hearing Handicap Inventory for Significant Others (HHIA-SO) Proxy, Significant Other Assessment of Communication (SOAC), Self-efficacy for Situational Management Questionnaire (SESMQ) Proxy, and Significant Other Scale of Hearing Disability (SOS-HEAR) and IPGAR Workshop Evaluation for Communication Partners.

Results: The four case studies showed that there is a difference in perception of hearing ability and communication self-efficacy for the PHL as assessed by the PHL and the CP prior to and following the IPGAR Workshop. Treatment outcomes for each couple will be summarized. Thus, pre-and post-IPGAR Workshop treatment outcomes from self-report assessments of the HHEI, SAC and SESMQ will be presented for the PHL and compared with the treatment outcomes for the HHIA-SO, SOAC, and SESMQ for the CP. Following the IPGAR workshop, all four PHLs reported improved communication abilities (i.e., "little better" or a "lot better") in 12 of the 15 communication skills assessed on the IPGAR Workshop Evaluation. In addition, following the IPGAR workshop, all four CPs reported improved communication abilities (i.e., "little better" or a "lot better") in 10 of the 15 communication skills assessed on the IPGAR

Workshop Evaluation. The IPGAR Workshop outcomes for both PHLs and CPs will be summarized. Moreover, all eight participants strongly agreed that the IPGAR workshop provided useful information, discussion and practice of communication strategies. Themes that emerged from both PHLs and CPs comments included: (a) better understanding of hearing loss, (b) supplementing hearing technology with communication strategies and (c) powerful modeling of communication strategies by presenters. /