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Poster abstract

Loudness therapy application for Parkinson's disease using iPhone and iPad

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Abstract

With the increasingly ubiquitous use of mobile devices, opportunities exist for conventional therapies to be extended into clients' own homes. One such example is loudness therapy for persons presenting with Parkinson's disease.

Persons with this degenerative illness commonly find that their speech becomes increasingly unintelligible over time, impacting significantly on communication in everyday life. Decline in communicative functioning is attributed, in large part, to a reduction in loudness of speech.

This project seeks to develop an application for iPhone and iPad, allowing those with Parkinson's disease to access loudness therapy from any location, with real-time performance feedback delivered visually to the patient and electronically to their Speech and Language Therapist. This has the advantage of promoting increased access to speech therapy programmes and maintenance of therapy objectives.

By comparing this innovative model of therapy service provision with the traditional clinic-based therapy model, it will also be possible to contrast the effectiveness of both approaches. This may have implications for cost-saving, clients' access and the future of therapy service provision.

Keywords

Parkinson's disease, mobile device, speech and language therapy, loudness therapy, hypokinetic dysarthria
