

# COMPARISON OF QUALITY OF COMMUNICATION LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH FLUENT AND NONFLUENT APHASIA

Mile Vuković<sup>1</sup>(1), Mirjana Petrović-Lazić (1), Nadica Jovanović-Simić (1), Milan Kulić (2), Irena Vuković (1)

(1) University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, (Serbia)

(2) University of East Sarajevo, Faculty of Medicine Foča, Bosna and Hercegovina

**Background and aim:** There are a few studies concerning communication as a factor of life satisfaction and the impact of communication disorders on quality of person's life. The aim of this study was to examine the quality of communication life in patients with fluent aphasia.

**Method:** A total of 40 patients (20 with fluent and 20 with nonfluent aphasia), aged 53-75 participated in this study. All patients were right-handed, with a single left hemisphere CVA; they were at least six months post-onset without visual deficits and/or dementia. The diagnosis and type of aphasia was done by Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination (Goodglas and Kaplan, 1983). According to the aphasia severity rating scale, all patients were divided in three groups: 1. severe aphasia, 2. moderate aphasia and 3. mild aphasia. The Quality of Communication Life Scale (QCL) was applied to determine the impact of aphasic disorders on an adult's relationships and interactions with communication partners and on participation in daily life activities.

**Results:** The results have shown that type of aphasia has a significant impact on the quality of communication life in the aphasics; patients with nonfluent aphasia achieved the lowest score on the QCL, while patients with fluent aphasia have achieved the highest. At the same time, a significant correlation between the severity of aphasia and quality of life has been shown; patients with severe forms of aphasia have a lower score on the QCL compared to the patients with moderate and mild aphasia.

**Discussion:** The analysis of obtained results point out differences in performance on the QCL scale between tested groups: patients with nonfluent aphasia had problems in all examined domains of life and communication (Socialization/Activities, Considered/Self-Concept, Roles and Responsibilities, General Well-Being), while patients with fluent aphasia mostly have no problems in the field of Roles and Responsibilities. The quality of communication life analysis in aphasic patients can assist in choosing aphasia treatment method.

**Key words:** *fluent aphasia, nonfluent aphasia, severity of aphasia, the quality of communication life*

## References

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author:mvukovic@yubc.net