

SHS 531 Fall, 2012
Exam #1

Please type your responses to these questions. Your answers should be one to two double-spaced pages long (more is not always better). Please be sure to edit and proofread your responses. **These answers must be your own work, so please do not consult with other students on the exam.**

1. Mrs. Goldstein, a 67 year old woman, complained to her neurologist that she had been having difficulty getting in and out of chairs for a couple of years and had started to have slurred speech in the last year. She also complained of increasingly poor handwriting in the last year. During her exam, the neurologist found rigidity of the trunk, arms, and legs. Mrs. Goldstein also displayed a shuffling gait while walking. The neurologist diagnosed her as having Parkinson disease.
 - a. What type of motor speech disorder does Mrs. Goldstein most likely have?
 - b. What tasks would you include in a comprehensive examination of her communication skills? What findings would you expect for nonspeech and speech tasks for a patient with this motor speech disorder?
 - c. What information would you give Mrs. Goldstein and her family about her motor speech disorder and her prognosis?
 - d. Describe two therapies designed to improve speech production in people with this disorder – one therapy designed to increase vocal intensity and one designed to manage speech rate. Also, discuss the communication strategies that might be useful for her family and caregivers.

2. Mrs. Ramirez, a 49 year old woman from northern New Mexico, presented to the Neurology clinic with a history of difficulty swallowing and drooping eyelids for the last year. Her family complained that her speech is difficult to understand when she is on the telephone. The family also reported that two other members of the extended family had a history of drooping eyelids and swallowing problems later in life.

The speech mechanism exam performed by a speech-language pathologist revealed drooping eyelids, mild bilateral facial weakness, and mild bilateral tongue weakness. Her gag reflex was weak, but no pathologic reflexes were noted. Mrs. Ramirez had consistent hypernasality and moderate vocal breathiness in connected speech.

 - a. What type of motor speech disorder does Mrs. Ramirez have? What information led you to this diagnosis? Briefly describe the underlying disorder that is most likely causing her speech and swallowing problems.
 - b. Would you use oral motor exercises to improve strength of speech musculature in this patient? Why or why not?
 - c. Describe a prosthetic treatment that could improve Mrs. Ramirez's speech intelligibility. How would you determine that she is a good candidate for this prosthetic device?

3. Mr. Parsons, a 65 year old man, presented to the emergency room with inability to speak and mild right-sided weakness. Speech evaluation after admission to the hospital revealed that oral movements were normal in strength and range of movement, and there was no difficulty with coughing or swallowing. Mr. Parsons could count to 10, produce the alphabet with assistance, and say a few two-word phrases, but he had quite a few articulatory distortions, substitutions, hesitations, and groping movements during connected speech. He appeared to have the most difficulty with production of voiced consonants. Language comprehension and reading comprehension appeared largely intact, and he could write short sentences to dictation. An MRI revealed a lesion in the insula.
 - a. What type of motor speech disorder does this patient exhibit? What information led you to this diagnosis? What underlying disorder is probably causing his motor speech disorder?
 - b. Write a treatment plan for Mr. Jones using the eight-step continuum program. Include a prognostic statement and a long-term goal. Focus your short-term goals on the initial steps

(first week or two) in that treatment hierarchy. Include a description of the stimuli that you would use.

- c. Briefly describe two other treatment programs that might be appropriate to use with Mr. Parsons.

4. You have been seeing a three-year, eight-month old boy named Keith in your off-site practicum this semester. He has numerous speech sound errors. List the characteristics you would look for in order to determine that he has childhood apraxia of speech rather than some other type of speech sound disorder. Describe a treatment program that is suitable for childhood apraxia of speech.