

# Speech and voice disorders

Ms Engelbrecht  
2012

# Speech and voice defined

- Speech: sound production/articulation with articulators eg lips and tongue
- Voice: vocal fold vibration

# Articulation disorders

- The inability to produce one or more speech sounds correctly
- Sounds can be omitted, substituted or distorted.

# Factors contributing to articulation disorders

- Chronic middle-ear infections
- Poor auditory discrimination
- Decreased strength of articulators
- Cranio-facial abnormalities
- Incorrect stimulation from the environment

# What to do?

- Auditory discrimination
- Place and manner of production
- Oral-motor exercises

# Stuttering

- Stuttering is a neuro-motor disorder
- Many theories developed to explain stuttering eg an incoordination of breathing, phonation, and articulation
- Treatment: primary behaviours (eg stuttering blocks) and secondary behaviours (eg "escape" mechanisms).

# Factors contributing to development of stuttering

- Genetic and congenital influence predispose the child to stuttering
- Speech and language acquisition and other developmental influences precipitate mild disfluences

# Cleft lip and palate

- Articulation disorders
- Rhinolalia Aperta (hyper-nasality)
- Rhinolalia Clausa (hypo-nasality)
- #Middle-ear problems because of Eustachian tube dysfunction



# Neuro-motor speech disorders

- Dysarthria: disorder of articulation, phonation, respiration, resonance and vegetative functioning (chewing, sucking, and swallowing) due to a lesion in the peripheral or CNS
- Verbal apraxia: inability to plan speech movements in terms of place and manners of articulation. It's in the result of a brain lesion in the left hemisphere and the damage can be acquired or congenital.

# Voice disorders

- Organic eg laryngeal cancer, vocal fold paralysis
- Functional eg vocal nodules, ventricular dysphonia, spasmodic dysphonia
- Psychogenic eg aphonia

# Organic disorders

- Laryngeal cancer
- Vocal cord paralysis

# Functional voice disorders

- Vocal nodules (excessive overuse/abuse of voice)
- Ventricular dysphonia (start using false vocal cords; very raspy low 'scary' voice)
- Spasmodic dysphonia (vocal folds in uncontrolled spasm)

# Psychogenic voice disorders

- Aphonia: no voice (usually in young women: emotionally traumatized; test by asking patient to cough or clear throat)
- Puberphonia/mutational falsetto (very high pitched voice in males)