Speech and voice disorders

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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 aphony
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)