

THE CAUSE OF DROOLING IN CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY: HYPERSALIVATION VERSUS SWALLOWING IMPAIRMENT

single sample while keeping type I error rate low.

Recommendations

Review of the relevant literature indicates that drooling in children with cerebral palsy is not due to hypersalivation (Senner et al., 2004; Tahmassebi & Curzon, 2003; Sochanjwski et al., 1986). The literature further suggests swallowing impairment as a probable cause of drooling in children with cerebral palsy (Senner et al., 2004; Tahmassebi & Curzon, 2003; Sochanjwski et al., 1986; Lespargot et al., 1993). However, throughout the literature there was no concrete evidence to support swallowing alone. Rather, the studies suggest swallowing impairment coupled with oral motor dysfunctions as the cause of drooling in children with cerebral palsy.

Further research is required to precisely determine the cause of drooling in children with cerebral palsy. Future research should target the frequency as well as the different stages of swallowing in children with cerebral palsy. In addition, research should address oral motor functioning in children with cerebral palsy.

Conclusions

Hypersalivation is not a cause of drooling in children with cerebral palsy. Further research is required to determine if swallowing and oral motor function can be linked to drooling in children with cerebral palsy.

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