FACTORS THAT PREDICT PATIENT PERCEIVED HOARSENESS IN SPASMODIC DYSPHONIA PATIENTS

Amanda Hu MD, FRCSC¹; Al Hillel MD²; Tanya Meyer MD²

¹Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, USA
²Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

ABSTRACT

Spasmodic dysphonia (SD) is a focal laryngeal dystonia with an overall prevalence of 5.9 per 100,000.¹,² There are three types of SD: adductor, abductor, and mixed. SD is a chronic neurological disorder that causes task specific contractions of the laryngeal muscles during speech.

Since SD is a benign condition, the main treatment goal is to improve the patient's vocal quality.

Standard treatment for SD is electromyographic (EMG) guided botulinum toxin injections of the affected muscles. Dose and frequency of the botulinum toxin injections are guided by the patient's reports of vocal quality and side effects from treatment.

The objective of this study was to determine factors that predict patient perceived hoarseness in SD patients

METHODS

Institutional review board at the University of Washington approved this study.

Exclusion criteria: non-English speaking patients, patients without the mental capacity to complete the study, and patients who declined.

In univariate analysis, Student’s t-tests showed a significant association between VHI-10 and gender (p=0.01). Females had a mean VHI-10 score of 26.1, which was significantly higher than males (VHI-10 of 23.5).

In multiple linear regression, older age, HADS anxiety, and CAPE-V were significant in predicting VHI-10 (r²=0.153). This means that approximately 15.3% of the value of the VHI-10 can be predicted by age, HADS anxiety, and CAPE-V.

REFERENCES