May 7th, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Bilingual Adults with TBI and ABI: Current State of Portland Metro SLP Assessment Resources

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Background Information

1. The U.S. Spanish-English (SE) population is growing, resulting in more SE bilinguals in medical settings, and greater demand for trained SLPs.
2. Only 7% of SLPs are bilingual. Of these, only 64% are SE.
3. Latino growth rate in OR is greater (72%) than the rest of the U.S., collectively (50%). There is a clear need for bilingual SLPs in OR.
4. Current bilingual assessments for SLP therapy are flawed (norming sample, context).
5. Medical providers often underuse trained interpreters which impacts patient care. If an untrained interpreter is used (family, friend, etc.), misinterpretation is more likely to occur.
6. Trained interpreters can save money and decrease hospital readmission rates.
7. To effectively assess SE bilinguals, we need to determine current practices in OR.

Research Questions

This study measured the state of use of bilingual assessments and interpreters by speech-language pathologists (SLPs) for bilingual adults with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and acquired brain injury (ABI). Results can indicate direction of research or resource allocation within the field.

1. Have Portland Metro medical SLPs received training in assessment and treatment of CLD adults?
2. Do Portland Metro SLPs have a Spanish-speaking (SS) interpreter available for assessment and treatment? Are they aware of the resources available in their workplace?
3. If Portland Metro medical SLPs do not have a SS interpreter available for assessment and treatment, how do they address communication barriers?
4. If available, what assessment tools do Portland Metro medical SLPs use most often with SS clients?

Methods

- 11-question survey sent to Portland Metro SLPs via Qualtrics (disseminated via Facebook, email, and OSHA) with multi-select, customizable, and single-select responses. Questions focused on SLP training, bilingualism, access to interpreter services, dialects, and formal and informal assessments used.
- 30 anonymous ASHA-certified Portland Metro medical SLPs responded. 10 bilingual/multilingual, 20 not. 50% with CCCs 11+ years.
- Results can indicate direction of research or resource allocation within the field.

Results

1. Have Portland Metro medical SLPs received training in assessment and treatment of CLD adults?
   - Majority have received training both adults and children
   - Limitations:
     Definition of appropriate “training” differs between universities
     Potential participation bias (PSU CLD education, those interested are more likely to respond)

4. If available, what assessment tools do medical SLPs use most often with Spanish-speaking clients?
   - Montreal Cognitive Assessment - Spanish Version
   - Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status - Spanish Version (RBANS)

Discussion & Conclusion

Overall, Portland Metro SLPs have a promising level of accommodations for SS adults with TBI and ABI. However, the ASHA states that SLPs cannot discriminate in service delivery based on language or dialect, and are obligated to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate services for all clients. Lack of resources for appropriate assessment and treatment violates this. The results are promising, but there is still much work to be done!

- Increased access to trained interpreters
- Increased access to culturally and linguistically appropriate assessment tools
- Increased education about best practice for culturally and linguistically diverse populations

Limitations & Future Directions

- Lack of responses (potential “choker” behind reporting lack of effort)(27)
- Incomplete responses (missed wording of questions / responses, reminders for survey completion)
- Participation bias (Financial or other incentive)
- Lack of participant information (Add questions space of education, provide definition of bilingual “training,” facility type and size)
- Reliability of information provided (Disseminate survey to facility directors instead of SLPs)
- Lack of certainty of full assessment battery used for population (Add questions addressing components of assessment battery used by SLPs)
- Limitations about SL P/ perception of importance / availability of CLD resources

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the Neurolinguistics Lab in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Department for their help with editing and proofreading. Thank you Dr. Sarah Key-DeLyria for her enormous contributions to the planning, organization, and modification of this project. I’d also like to thank co-advisor Dr. Christina Gildersleeve-Neumann for her help with the final stages of the project.

References