

Journal of Neurology

Accepted on 21 February, 2019

***“Speech treatment improves dysarthria in multisystemic ataxia:
a raterblinded, controlled pilot-study in ARSACS”***

Dr. Matthis Synofzik’s Research Group

Abstract

We aimed to provide proof-of-principle evidence that intensive home-based speech treatment can improve dysarthria in complex multisystemic degenerative ataxias, exemplified by autosomal recessive spastic ataxia Charlevoix-Saguenay (ARSACS). Feasibility and piloting efficacy of speech training specifically tailored to cerebellar dysarthria was examined through a 4-week program in seven patients with rater-blinded assessment of intelligibility (primary outcome) and naturalness and acoustic measures of speech (secondary outcomes) performed 4 weeks before, immediately prior to, and directly after training (intraindividual control design). Speech intelligibility and naturalness improved post treatment. This provides piloting evidence that ataxia-tailored speech treatment might be effective in degenerative cerebellar disease.

To learn more about the study interested readers can contact Dr. Matthis Synofzik directly.

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