

### The remediation of conduction aphasia via sentence repetition: A case study

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#### ABSTRACT

Repetition is viewed typically as a primary deficit in conduction aphasia. Consequently, repetition is considered to be a target of treatment, as opposed to an approach to treatment for this syndrome. However, our experience with a conduction aphasic who had greater speech fluency in repetition than in construction encouraged us to attempt a treatment program based on sentence repetition. The treatment program had three components: (1) a pre-treatment of sentence repetition; (2) the treatment component, in which a new set of sentences is introduced each week in conjunction through the study sessions; (3) analysis of verbal picture description prior to and following treatment as an independent outcome measure. The patient (CB) participated in 2 weeks of sentence repetition treatment, after which he displayed improvements in both sentence repetition and picture descriptions. The reasons for such improvements and the general utility of the treatment program are discussed.

**Key words:** conduction aphasia, remediation, repetition.

#### INTRODUCTION

Repetition is typically viewed as a primary deficit in conduction aphasia. Consequently, repetition is usually considered to be a target of treatment, as opposed to an approach to treatment, for this syndrome (Blumstein, 1982; Wertz, 1987). However, our experience with one conduction aphasic (CB) encouraged us to break with this tradition and use sentence repetition as a remediation technique.

CB was a good candidate for piloting a new treatment program for conduction aphasia, insofar as he fulfilled two basic requirements typically used as necessary for evaluating remediation programs. First, improvement during the new treatment program could not be attributed to a non-specific

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