

Editorial

Volume 22 Editorial

Andrea Helo ^{a, b}

^a Departamento de Fonoaudiología, Universidad de Chile, Chile.

^b Editor in Chief, Revista Chilena de Fonoaudiología, Chile.

Email: ahelo@uchile.cl

It is with great satisfaction that we present Volume 22 of *Revista Chilena de Fonoaudiología*. In this edition, we are pleased to share with you 16 articles addressing various topics within the broad scope of this discipline, including communication and language in both pediatric and adult populations, as well as hearing, voice, oral motor skills, and swallowing. The studies we present offer an up-to-date perspective of the discipline and its application in the aforementioned areas. Additionally, each article contributes significantly to the field of Speech-Language Therapy.

The first four articles address issues of great relevance in the pediatric field, focusing on children and adolescents with language and communication difficulties. The first article examines the size of the lexicon in very preterm and extremely preterm children at two years of age. The results show a delay in vocabulary development in preterm children compared to full-term children, although no differences are observed between very preterm and extremely preterm children. This study reveals language difficulties, implying the need for early language intervention in the preterm population. The second article explores the perceptions and experiences of speech-language therapists who conducted teletherapy for preschoolers with developmental language disorder in the context of the pandemic. This research highlights the specific challenges and difficulties associated with telerehabilitation in children, demonstrating the additional complexity involved in treating children remotely. This is highly relevant as this modality has been increasingly used in speech-language therapy. The third article addresses the evolution of aphasia in adolescents with sequelae of stroke, a topic that is understudied but of great interest due to the severe consequences this pathology has on communication. This study shows the favorable progress of the adolescents and emphasizes the importance of early speech-language therapy intervention. The last article in this series examines the association between social competencies, bullying, and suicidal ideation in adolescents with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This paper

shows there is a link between certain dimensions of social competencies, as well as bullying, and suicidal ideation in this population, and raises awareness about the importance of a comprehensive approach, which should consider both the person with ASD and their environment.

Three articles are presented next in the area of audiology. One of them evaluates the communication skills, particularly pragmatic competence, of adults with congenital hearing impairment. This study shows that the subjects exhibit adequate pragmatic skills, resorting to compensatory strategies, not always optimal, when faced with communication difficulties. This topic is relevant as it illustrates the potential impact of comprehensive communication interventions in this population. The second article is a review of the literature on cognitive performance in people with vestibular syndromes. The results reveal a scarcity of studies carried out in this area and inconclusive findings, and further research is encouraged on cognitive skills in this population. The third article analyzes the prevalence of external auditory canal exostosis (EACE) among surfers and bodyboarders on the central coast of Chile, showing a high prevalence of EACE among Chilean athletes. This study has a significant impact on the management of this population, as the sea temperature in Chile exhibits particular conditions, meaning that international data may not necessarily be applicable in the country.

Next, four articles are presented in the area of voice therapy. The first investigates the effect of sleep quality and quantity on acoustic parameters of the voice, finding an association between these variables. This offers useful evidence that suggests that sleep should be considered a variable when assessing and treating individuals with vocal difficulties. The following two articles introduce the validation processes for voice assessment instruments in Chile, focusing on the quality of life of individuals with vocal difficulties. This is highly relevant in our country due to the scarcity of validated instruments in this area. The last article in this group is a literature review addressing the types of fibers

of the intrinsic laryngeal muscles in humans. This work provides essential information for speech-language therapists specializing in the field of voice and swallowing, enabling them to better understand laryngeal anatomy and physiology.

Subsequently, three articles are presented, one in the area of oral motor skills and two in the area of swallowing disorders. The first presents a successful case of speech-language therapy intervention in the scarring process. This work provides valuable information on the appropriate approach to such pathologies and their impact on orofacial function. The second article in this series is a literature review on the effect of mechanical ventilation on swallowing physiology. This review systematizes information that is essential for the work of professionals who evaluate patients with mechanical ventilation, showing that its use could increase the risk of aspiration. The last of these manuscripts reviews the protocols for cuff management in adult patients with artificial airways in Chilean public hospitals. This study reveals a lack of consensus regarding the values used in different facilities, values that in some cases could be harmful to patients. Moreover,

it provides information that is critical for decision-making in this area.

The final article analyses the speech-language therapy staffing for the care of adult and pediatric patients in highly complex Chilean hospitals, showing the need to increase staffing numbers at a national level.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the authors for their dedication and effort in presenting their research and sharing their knowledge with the academic and professional community. We also extend our appreciation to the reviewers and the editorial committee for their rigorous work in the selection and review of the articles.

We hope that this edition of *Revista Chilena de Fonoaudiología* serves as a source of inspiration and information for researchers, professionals, and students dedicated to this discipline. We invite you to explore the various studies we present and to use this opportunity to expand your knowledge and contribute to the ongoing growth and development of the field.