

BIAP Recommendation 30/1 Annex 1: Central Auditory Processing Disorders – Symptoms

Foreword

This document presents a Recommendation by the International Bureau for Audiophonology BIAP.

A BIAP Recommendation provides a reference standard for conducting an audiological or phonological intervention that represents, to the best knowledge of BIAP, the evidence base and good practice concerning the stated methodology and scope of the document at the time of publication.

Although care has been taken in preparing the information supplied, BIAP does not and cannot guarantee its interpretation or application. BIAP cannot be held liable for any errors or omissions, and BIAP accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage howsoever arising. This document shall be effective until superseded or withdrawn by BIAP.

Comments on this document are welcome and should be sent to the Secretary General of the International Bureau for Audiophonology BIAP. The address can be found on the BIAP website at www.biap.org.

Recommendation

Symptoms

A Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) is a hearing problem, that is independent of a peripheral hearing disorder, but it may enhance the symptoms of a co-existing peripheral disorder.

Starting preschool or elementary school the child with a CAPD but a normal tone audiogram might show a behaviour that looks like the behaviour of a child with a peripheral hearing loss.

The following symptoms may occur in the case of a CAPD. They are listed in relation to the percentage of their occurrence:

- Problems to understand simple as well as complex orders
- Problems to understand modified speech, like rapid speech, less articulated speech, dialects, speech disorders...
- Frequent demand for repeats
- Reduced speech understanding and easy distractions in noisy situations
- Improved speech understanding in a 1:1 situation
- Speech understanding difficulties, when listening to a radio, TV, CD player, ...
- Language development disorders including phonological disorders
- Delayed progress in learning abilities
- Preference of visual and repetitive information
- Reduced interest to listen to someone reading a story or a text
- Acoustic memory problems

- Directional hearing problems
- Problems to recognize melodies.

Due to the symptoms mentioned above quite often one can observe behavioural problems.

As the above mentioned symptoms can also be part of other non-CAPD-related disorders, a CAPD-specific differential diagnostic assessment is necessary.

During elementary school additional symptoms may occur:

- Problems to learn a foreign language
- Writing problems
- The CAPD problems may become obvious when the learning requirements in school increase
- Problems to adapt to different room acoustics when one has to change the classroom more often
- Problems to adapt to different communication and teaching styles of an increasing number of teachers

Adult patients complain about decreasing speech understanding in noisy situations. These problems may increase in multi talker situations and in these situations, even one distracting noise may make speech understanding especially difficult. The patient becomes an increasingly passive listener, the communication problem is often not recognized and the number of social contacts decreases. So the communication behaviour of the affected person gets often interpreted as paying insufficient attention to the conversation. The problem may increase through aging, so that an increasing social isolation may occur.

This recommendation was created and approved in multidisciplinary cooperation between professionals of all audiophonologic disciplines, which are medicine, pedagogy, speech therapy, psychology and hearing instrument audiology.

The original language of this document is French.

BIAP authorizes the publication of documents available on its website but forbids any modification of their contents.

President of the commission TC30: Jean-Pierre DEMANEZ (Belgium)