

Word Repetition in Left Hemisphere Stroke

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Introduction and Objective: Individuals with left hemisphere damage are impaired in language skills; repeating others' speech is one of them. Regarding the importance of repetition in language studies and lack of research in left hemisphere stroke, the purpose of this paper was to survey word repetition skill in one person with left hemisphere damage from stroke.

Method: In this cross-sectional research, a woman aged 55 years with left hemisphere stroke for the first time (post-injury time = 13 months) and 3 normal adult women (mean age= 56.66 year, SD= 2.08) participated. Patient's report on CT scan of the brain indicated she had a hemorrhagic infarct in left parietal and right occipital lobes. She had no combination disorders such as epilepsy, Parkinson, Alzheimer, head trauma, visual and auditory deficits. Thirty practical words of 50 used in her speech therapy were chosen for word repetition assessment.

Results: The patient could repeat 7 words correctly, but healthy individuals repeated all of the words correctly. There was a significant difference between the patient and non-patients in word repetition ($p=0.000$; $p<0.05$).

Conclusion: There is a necessity for examining word repetition skill in more individuals with left hemisphere stroke. However, it could be said that the majority of them are impaired in word repetition. The role of occipital lobe in speech has not been mentioned so far; left parietal lobe plays an important role in speech repetition. In future research, it is proposed to study sentence repetition in individuals with stroke in left hemisphere.

Key words: stroke, left hemisphere, word repetition.