Fall 4-1-2021

Profiling selected speech characteristics in individuals with Chronic Cough

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ABSTRACT

Summary: Background and objective. Chronic Cough (CC) is highly prevalent in Dakshina Karnataka and the clinical features of CC tend to overlap with laryngeal problems, respiratory problems, and other symptoms when triggered by the tussive stimuli. Hence, the current study was conducted to systematically profile the subjective and objective measures of respiratory and voice characteristics using a comprehensive assessment approach and to profile the cough trigger factors, cough symptom factors, and quality of life-related measures in individuals with CC**.**

Method. A descriptive cross-sectional study design was conducted on a total of 51 participants between the age range of 18-65 years among which 9 were in adolescence and young adulthood age and 42 were in middle adulthood age. Out of the 51 participants, 23 were males and 28 were females. A complete case history, followed by perceptual and acoustic voice evaluations as well as perceptual and aerodynamic respiratory evaluations were carried out. In addition, the profiling of trigger factors, symptom factors and quality of life measures were carried out using copyrighted questionnaires. The responses were analyzed keeping the age and gender as the variable. Descriptive statistics was used for analyzing the data.

Results. A striking difference among the participants across the age distribution and gender-related distribution were noted. Overall, the middle adulthood group and females were observed to have predominance across all the factors.

Conclusion. The current study contributes to understanding the co-occurring voice, respiratory, trigger, symptom, and quality of life factors. In addition, the accurate profiling would ensure precise diagnosis, effective delivery of targeted treatment and hence facilitate therapeutic assessment.

KEYWORDS: Chronic Cough-Profile-Quality of life-Respiratory-Symptoms-Triggers-Voice