Perspectives of Dutch health professionals regarding auditory processing disorders; a focus group study

INTRODUCTION

- Characteristics and diagnostic procedures of children with suspected auditory processing disorders (APD) are topics of ongoing debate
- Professionals are in need of more clarity and uniformity about the pathway of care for these children
- The present study forms part of a project, leading to a Dutch Position Statement on APD

RESULTS

Theme: definition
- Definition, symptomatology and comorbidity are subjects that are interrelated; professionals differed in their perspective regarding the existence of ‘pure’ APD in children (see fig.1)

Theme: diagnostic procedures
- Professionals agreed on the multidisciplinary approach that ACs already use, both in diagnostics and intervention. However, they differed in opinions about the use and usefulness of auditory processing tests as part of this approach (see quotes 1, 2 and 3)

Theme: clinical reasoning
- Decisions of professionals are based on all components of evidence-based practice (scientific evidence, experience, clients’ values and organisational context), however there is uncertainty because of a small and controversial evidence base

CONCLUSIONS

- Dutch professional’s perspectives differ regarding two main subjects: terminology (APD or listening problems?) and use of AP tests
- Besides these main differences, there seems to be agreement on the multidisciplinary approach in diagnostics and intervention

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