A Treatment for Reduced Vocal Intensity Secondary to Hypokinetic Dysarthria in Parkinson’s Disease

This study utilized a retrospective cohort design to investigate the effect of SPEAK OUT! therapy program on vocal intensity. Data from 78 patients were analyzed, comparing vocal intensity (in dB) during the production of sustained vowels, reading, and conversation at pre-treatment, post-treatment, 6-month follow-up, and 12-month follow-up periods. Statistically significant increases in vocal intensity were found when comparing pre-treatment vocal intensity to intensity at all post-treatment/follow-up periods. These findings were characterized by significant increases in vocal intensity at the three post-treatment periods. Effect sizes for all comparisons were large, suggesting a strong degree of practical clinical significance.