

Global implementation of efficacious voice treatment for Parkinson disease: LSVT LOUD®: Germany

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Objective

This project was designed to evaluate the implementation of an efficacious voice treatment (LSVT LOUD) developed in the USA and designed to improve speech and voice disorders in Parkinson disease (PD) into scope of clinical speech practice in Germany.

Background

Implementation science is the study of methods that influence the integration of evidence-based interventions into real world practice settings (Center for Research in Implementation Science and Prevention (CRISP), 2015). This presentation will describe the implementation of LSVT LOUD, an efficacious voice treatment for PD, with three Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) documenting the short and long-term efficacy in the USA, into the clinical speech practice in Germany (Ramig et al., 2001 a,b; Sapir et al., 2011; Mahler et al., 2015). As summarized by CRISP, the translation pathway of research lab efficacy into practice includes: **“clinicians adopting the program and successfully implementing it into their setting and culture, the sustainability of the fidelity of the intervention and patients and payment agencies adopting the treatment as well”**.

Methods

The translation pathway recommended by CRISP was followed, with emphasis on **treatment fidelity**. Thus a key element in the implementation process was training of speech clinicians. In collaboration with Deutscher Bundesverband fuer Logopaedie, 14 LSVT LOUD Training and Certification Workshops were held throughout Germany since 2000. As a result, over 1,300 speech clinicians have been trained and certified in LSVT LOUD in Germany. With an estimate of over 15,000 patients in Germany having received LSVT LOUD. The LSVT Companion® System (Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the M. J. Fox Foundation) has been translated into German and is being used by German clinicians in treatment and German patients in independent home practice.

To assess implementation and treatment fidelity of LSVT LOUD in Germany, an online survey was administered to LSVT LOUD Certified clinicians in German. Open rate was 30.9% with 132 responders.

Clinician Comments

“Using LSVT, one patient who has been treated for many years before conventionally has experienced positive effects on his speech for the first time.”

“All patients show improvements in voice, loudness, and emotional aspects by LSVT LOUD.”

“To see some patient's become “younger”. Their facial expression came back.”

“Patient is able to do his job again.”

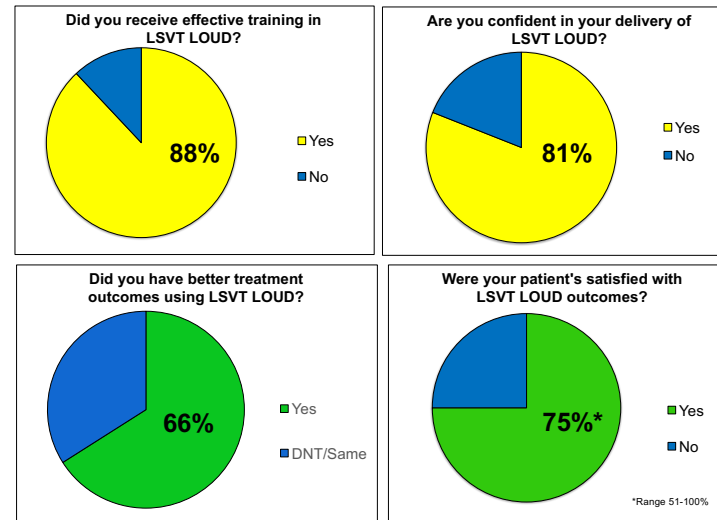


26% reported use of the German translation of the LSVT Companion System.



Results

On average, each clinician treated 16 patients with LSVT LOUD.



Conclusions

LSVT LOUD is being implemented successfully into scope of clinical speech practice in Germany. Follow-up patient groups (LOUD for LIFE) are being initiated together with increased implementation of the LSVT Companion System for patient continued practice. This successful implementation model provides a road map for other countries where LSVT LOUD clinicians are trained (over 16,000 LSVT LOUD clinicians in 69 countries).

