

ABSTRACT

The diploma thesis is elaborated on the speech therapy topic, the specifics of speech therapy intervention for people suffering from Huntington's disease. It consists of a theoretical part, in which, within three chapters, the reader is gradually introduced to the diagnosis of Huntington's disease and general knowledge about the history and etiology of the disease, the occurring symptoms and diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The second chapter discusses impaired communication skills in people with Huntington's disease. Summarizes findings on cognitive-communication disorders, dysarthria and dysphagia. The third chapter deals with findings about speech therapy intervention itself for the clients in question. In its content, it discusses both the requirements and possibilities of diagnosis of the mentioned deglutition and communication disorders, as well as knowledge regarding the provision of speech therapy according to the present communication disorders and swallowing disorders. The last chapter is devoted to the research part of the thesis. The research was carried out using a qualitative approach using grounded theory methodology. Data were obtained through a total of twenty semi-structured interviews. Two clinical speech therapists and eighteen respondents who have experience with the diagnosis of Huntington's disease either from the position of a caregiver or the bearer of the diagnosis were asked. The main intention is to find common denominators in the issue of speech therapy intervention for people with this diagnosis and to point out areas that could be developed and improved in the system of comprehensive care in the Czech Republic for these patients. A partial aim was to find out whether any differences could be found in the approaches of clinical speech therapists. The investigation yielded four established statements that, together with the answers to the research questions, fulfilled the set research objectives and brought recommendations for speech therapy practice.

KEYWORDS

Huntington's disease - impaired communication ability - swallowing disorders - speech therapy intervention - clinical speech therapist - caring person