

ABSTRACT

The dissertation thesis is devoted to the topic of swallowing disorders in the elderly in aftercare in the context of speech therapy intervention. The thesis includes theoretical and practical part. The theoretical part of the thesis consists of five consecutive chapters devoted to the anatomy and physiology of the act of swallowing, swallowing disorders in terms of their etiology, symptomatology, diagnostics, therapy and specifics of swallowing disorders in the elderly.

The empirical part of the thesis is composed of four chapters, presenting in detail the conducted preliminary research, the main research and the results. The main aim of the research was to provide a comprehensive picture of swallowing disorders in elderly patients in an inpatient aftercare setting. The subobjectives of the research were aimed at identifying the underlying diagnoses and factors influencing swallowing disorders in the elderly, as well as identifying which therapeutic techniques are most effective in the elderly. Another subobjective was to determine whether dysphagia in the elderly is diagnosed in the acute phase of the disease. In relation to the objectives of the thesis and following the study of expert sources, research hypotheses were formulated.

In order to meet the main and subobjectives of the research and to verify the hypotheses, a quantitative research design was chosen based on the analysis of medical records and clinical SLP examination of the swallowing of elderly patients with swallowing disorders hospitalized in the aftercare unit. The research population in the main research included 168 probands. The obtained data were statistically processed and analyzed using descriptive statistics and nonparametric statistical tests. The final discussion presents and interprets the results of the research, compares them with the results of available Czech or foreign research in the area under study, draws conclusions and offers recommendations for practice and future research.

KEYWORDS

Swallowing, presbyphagia, dysphagia, swallowing disorders, senior, geriatrics, aftercare, speech therapy intervention