

# **Auditory-Verbal Therapy as an Evidence-Based Practice**

## **Abstract**

### Introduction:

Auditory-Verbal Therapy is a therapeutic approach utilized for auditory habilitation of children with cochlear implants. AVT is designed to maximize an individual's access to auditory language input. This can help improve these individual's quality of life by providing stronger communication skills for social interactions, academic achievement, and gainful employment.

### Purpose:

This literature review explores the efficacy of Auditory-Verbal Therapy as an approach to improving speech and language functioning. I sought to examine how effective AVT is in producing speech and language outcomes similar to those of typically developing children for individuals with hearing impairment.

### Methods:

To do this, I examined the impact of Auditory Verbal Therapy as reported in 5 peer-reviewed studies. Due to the significance of language development, true randomized studies are difficult to conduct in an ethical manner, so instead I included a systematic review, a case study, and three quasi-experimental designs.

### Results:

Each study showed that subjects made significant gains in language skills upon completion of an AVT program; however, many subjects had not yet demonstrated age-appropriate communicative

functioning. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to determine whether individuals receiving AVT will demonstrate linguistic performance similar to that of their typically developing peers.

Conclusions:

The studies' results validate the use of AV as an intervention for individuals with cochlear implants; however, few large-scale, randomized studies have been conducted on this topic in recent years. Additionally, more information is needed to determine if this therapeutic approach can indeed lead clients to develop receptive and expressive language skills comparable to those of their typically developing peers.

## References

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