
Department of Speech and Language Therapy

Dysarthria

What is dysarthria?

Dysarthria is the term used to describe **speech difficulties** that are caused by **damage or weakness** of the **muscles** needed for speech.

What are the common signs?

- **Slurred** speech
- **Slow** or **fast** speech
- **Loud** or **quiet** speech
- **Reduced** tongue, lip and jaw **movement**
- Changes in **quality** of voice
- **Drooling** or poor control of **saliva**

What causes Dysarthria?

Dysarthria may occur for a number of **different reasons**. Please speak to your speech and language therapist or doctor about the possible causes of your difficulties.

How can Speech and Language Therapy help?

Speech and language therapists assess and help with speech disorders. This will include:

- Give **therapy** and **advice** to help maximise speech/communication.
- Offer **support** and **understanding** of communication difficulties.

How can you help?

- Allow plenty of **time** to speak.
- Be aware that speaking when tired may be more difficult.
- Use **writing, drawing** and/or **gesture** to support communication.
- **Recap** – make sure you have **understood** each other.



Useful websites

www.dysarthria.info

www.speech-therapy-on-video.com/dysarthria.html

Contact details:

Your speech therapist is: _____

Telephone Number: _____



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Help with this leaflet:



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patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



Document history

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