

Background

Childhood communication disorders are correlated with lower quality of life measurements in adulthood

Quality of life measurement areas include academic achievement, employment, socioeconomic status, mental/physical health, and satisfaction with relationships and life circumstances

Affected individuals remain at a societal disadvantage into adulthood, even when the core symptoms of their disorders improve

Methods

An extensive literature review was conducted to explore the long-term implications of childhood communication disorders, factors that affect long-term outcomes, and how to utilize this information to improve QOL for this population

Results

Communication deficits result in an increased risk for negative psychiatric, social, academic, and employment outcomes

Individuals with communication disorders have a substantially reduced quality of life in comparison to the perfect health state

This is consistent across many communication disorder types

Discussion

Because people with communication disorders are at a lifetime disadvantage, we should begin mitigating these negative outcomes by emphasizing the importance of early identification of impairments and then following up with treatment programs that take unique risk factors into account

To support effective communication development, parents should be made aware of how they can promote appropriate language development and methods of communicating