

Critical Review: Does the participation of a significant other in aural rehabilitation classes reduce perceived hearing handicap for older adults?

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This critical review examines the effects of participation in aural rehabilitation classes with a significant other on perceived hearing handicap for older adults. Study designs include mixed group repeated measures and single group within subject designs. Overall, there is no evidence to suggest there is a positive shift in the attitudes of the individual with hearing loss as a result of significant other participation in aural rehabilitation classes. Although significant other attendance does not positively influence the perceptions associated with hearing loss, there have been no negative reports linked with their participation. At this time, significant other participation

Methods

Search Strategy:

Computerized database

Pubmed, OVIDonline, audiology online

Using the following key words:

[(Aural rehabilitation) OR (Group Aural

A limitation of this study is the inconsistent administration of the HHIE to the hearing impaired and SO participants. For participants in the 'with

findings suggest that SOs can add to the session by providing feedback for the hearing impaired adult (Taylor, 2003). The benefits for SO participation in group AR include learning valuable information, sharing experiences and perspectives on hearing loss and gaining knowledge of the effects on individual lifestyles. The SO can help provide support and encouragement for their hard of hearing partners. At this time, further research is needed in this area to conclude whether SO participation during AR classes is truly beneficial for both the hard of hearing partner and the SO.