

**Critical Review:**

impairment. Studies were required to provide group counseling or communication based programs to adults over the age of 18. Studies in which significant others attended the aural rehabilitation program as well were excluded. No criteria were set for subjective or objective outcome measures.

### Data Collection

Results obtained from the literature search yielded (4) randomized controlled trials, (2) systematic reviews and (1) cohort design. The majority of the studies fell under the level 1 category of graded evidence.

### ***Results***

#### *Randomized Controlled Trials*

The results of these studies are discussed in chronological order.

Smaldino & Smaldino (1988) examined the influence of aural rehabilitation, as well as cognitive

performance. It was concluded in this study that strong deductions regarding the effectiveness of adult aural rehabilitation could not be made due to limitations inherent in the studies examined. However, Hawkins (2005) systematic review was able to conclude that aural rehabilitation groups do result in some short term benefits.

A review of the literature discussing benefits from aural rehabilitation programs was conducted by Preminger (2007). The purpose of this review was to briefly examine seven adult group aural rehabilitation studies and describe issues associated with this type of research. Four of the seven studies had positive outcomes such as decreased hearing handicap, increased well-being and positive coping behaviours for the experimental group. Unfortunately, the results of two of the studies were not discussed.

#### Cohort Design

Norman, George, Downie & Milligan s (1995) study recruited 124 participants to examine the effectiveness of a communication course for new hearing aid users.

a result of treatment. It also included a long-

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