


Results

Prospective cohort studies:

Cohort studies allow for the collection of data on outcomes for a group of individuals with similar characteristics and is an appropriate study design to



Case series are one type of single group design (Ip, Paulus, Balk, Dahabreh, Avendano, & Lau, 2013).

Hogan, Stokes, White, Tyszkiewicz & Woolgar (2008) reported a single group design study investigating whether, in children with hearing loss, AVT is effective at accelerating spoken language development. Participants (n = 37) were self-referred to an AV program, which made this a convenience sample. All participants had permanent bilateral hearing loss, ranging from moderate to profound, and were between the ages of 0 and 5 years. Participants attended AVT sessions at least twice a month for a minimum of 12 months; although, the operational details of the intervention were not clearly defined. Heterogeneity within the group was attributed to the degree of hearing loss, the age at which the hearing loss was diagnosed, the age at the start of AVT, and the type of amplification device used.

Pre-programme measures of total language were taken

significant difference in the amount of receptive language growth.

Further statistical analysis indicated that there was no main effect for sensory device used on the rate of language development. The authors recognized that the effects of sensory device used could not be isolated due to the co-varying influence of the degree of loss. In addition, the analysis revealed that there was a main effect for duration of intervention on both the expressive and receptive raw scores. Furthermore, there was a significant interaction between the sensory device used and the duration in therapy for auditory comprehension raw scores only. The rate of change was greater for children with hearing aids who had mild to moderate degrees of hearing loss and had received AVT longer.

This study provides equivocal evidence to support the effectiveness of AVT on promoting spoken language development.

Systematic Reviews:

A systematic review is an accumulation of the existing evidence which can be used to look at the effectiveness of a particular intervention or therapy. It is an appropriate design to look at the effectiveness of AVT on the development of spoken language in children with hearing loss. Systematic reviews include a defined search strategy, and specific inclusion and exclusion criteria

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61-85.

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