

Concussion and Audiology: What Should We Know?

Course Description: This two-hour session will focus on the auditory and communication consequences of mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), or concussion. Topics will include an overview of MTBI, the possible physiological and functional consequences, and the relevance to the field of audiology and health care in general.

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the mechanisms of head injury and concussion and the potential impact on the auditory system.
2. List four possible functional consequences of concussion related to hearing and communication, in the context of overall health and disability.
3. Identify audiological test considerations for individuals with concussion in the context of a multidisciplinary evaluation.
4. Summarize possible management strategies from an audiological and larger team context.

Agenda

- 1:30 - 1:50: Introduction to the public health impact of and description of mechanisms of MTBI/concussion
1:50 - 2:05: Using the International Classification of Function (ICF) model in the context of concussion and auditory consequences
2:05 - 2:20: Review of evidence related to hearing loss and auditory processing problems
2:20 - 2:50: BRANCHES study: behavioral and electrophysiological measures in MTBI/concussion
2:50 - 3:15: Diagnostic and management considerations for audiologists as part of a multidisciplinary team
3:15 - 3:30: Questions, answers and wrap up

Speaker: Kathy Vander Werff, PhD, is an associate professor of audiology at Syracuse University. Dr. Vander Werff has been at Syracuse University since 2004 and her research interests include using evoked potential measures as tool to better understand the effects of hearing loss and central auditory problems on how the brain processes sound, particularly speech. Her research has been applied to infants, aging populations, and individuals with concussion/MTBI. Dr. Vander Werff teaches graduate courses in the AuD program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, is affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program at SU, and has an adjunct appointment in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse.

Disclosure:

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Non-Financial: Dr. Vander Werff serves on the CSDCAS advisory committee for the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorder (CAPCSD).