



<b>Title</b>	<b>Environmental barriers to communication for individuals with dysarthria</b>
<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Whitehill, T; Ma, E; Tse, F</b>
<b>Citation</b>	<b>The 2010 Motor Speech Conference, Savannah, GA., 3-7 March 2010.</b>
<b>Issued Date</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>URL</b>	<b><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10722/140984">http://hdl.handle.net/10722/140984</a></b>
<b>Rights</b>	<b>Creative Commons: Attribution 3.0 Hong Kong License</b>

Environmental barriers to communication for individuals with dysarthria  
T. Whitehill, E. Ma, F. Tse

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), disability represents a dynamic interaction between an individual's health condition and his or her personal and environmental factors. There have been few previous studies identifying environmental barriers to communication for people with dysarthria. The aim of this study was to investigate environmental barriers to communication from the perspective of both individuals with dysarthria and professionals who work with this population. A qualitative approach, with group discussions structured by nominal group technique, was used to elicit responses from participants. Twelve individuals with dysarthria (8 with mild-moderate dysarthria and 4 with severe dysarthria) and six professionals who had experience interacting with clients with dysarthria participated in the study. Environmental barriers to communication were categorized under five domains, according to the ICF framework. A list of environmental barriers to communication for people with dysarthria was thus created. This may provide healthcare workers with information to develop strategies for the removal of barriers in a communication environment. Differences in the responses of the three groups provided additional information that can assist in the greater participation of individuals with dysarthria in society.