

Consensus on characteristics, comorbidity and referral of children with auditory processing disorders: the opinion of Dutch speech language pathologists & audiologists

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INTRODUCTION

- There is discussion about characteristics and diagnostics of children with suspected auditory processing disorder (APD)
- A clear understanding of possible characteristics which are associated with APD is important for the determination of the appropriate care pathway

RESEARCH AIM

- To reach consensus between Dutch speech-language pathologists (SLP's) and audiologists on characteristics, comorbidity and referral of children with APD

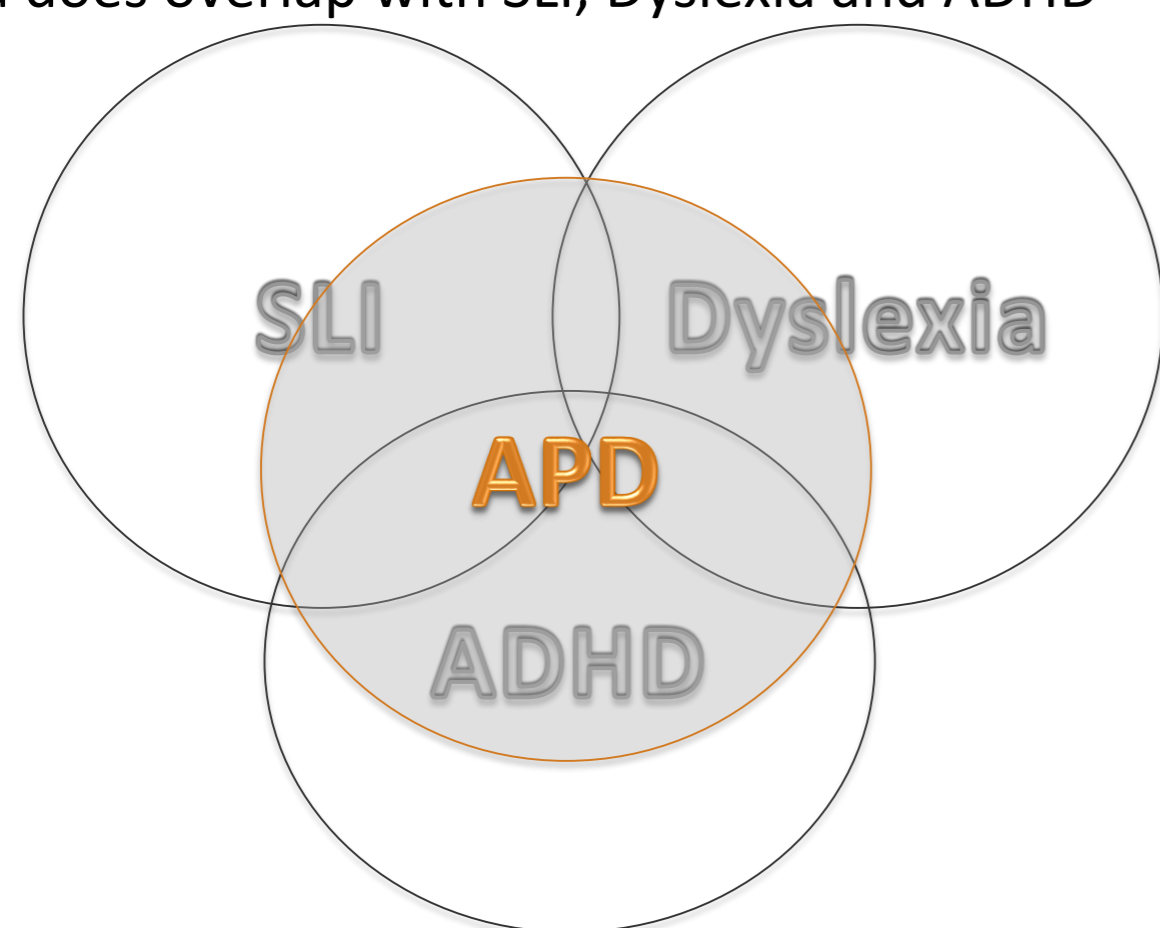
METHOD

- Design: Two-round-Delphi-study
- The first round questionnaire consisted of open-ended questions about two fictitious cases
- The results of the first round were used as input for the second round questionnaire
- The second round aimed to reach consensus about the characteristics, comorbidity and referral of children with APD
- Consensus was considered to be reached when at least 70% of the panel members agreed with a statement
- Respondents: 5 SLP's and 8 Audiologists working at an audiological center (n=10; 77%) or in a private practice (n=3; 23%) across the Netherlands

RESULTS

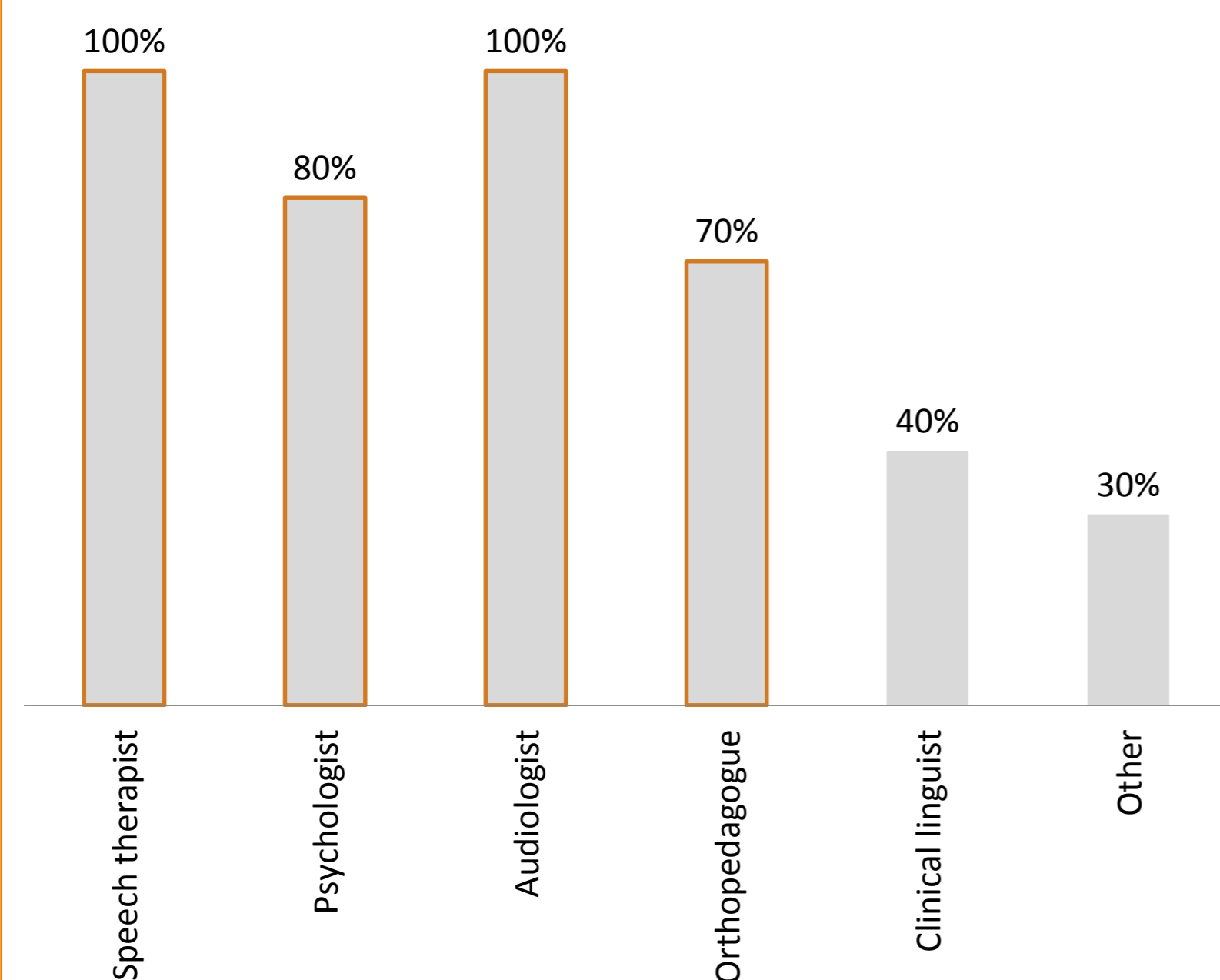
The respondents agreed (>70%):

- That APD cannot be seen as an isolated disorder (82%) and does overlap with SLI, Dyslexia and ADHD

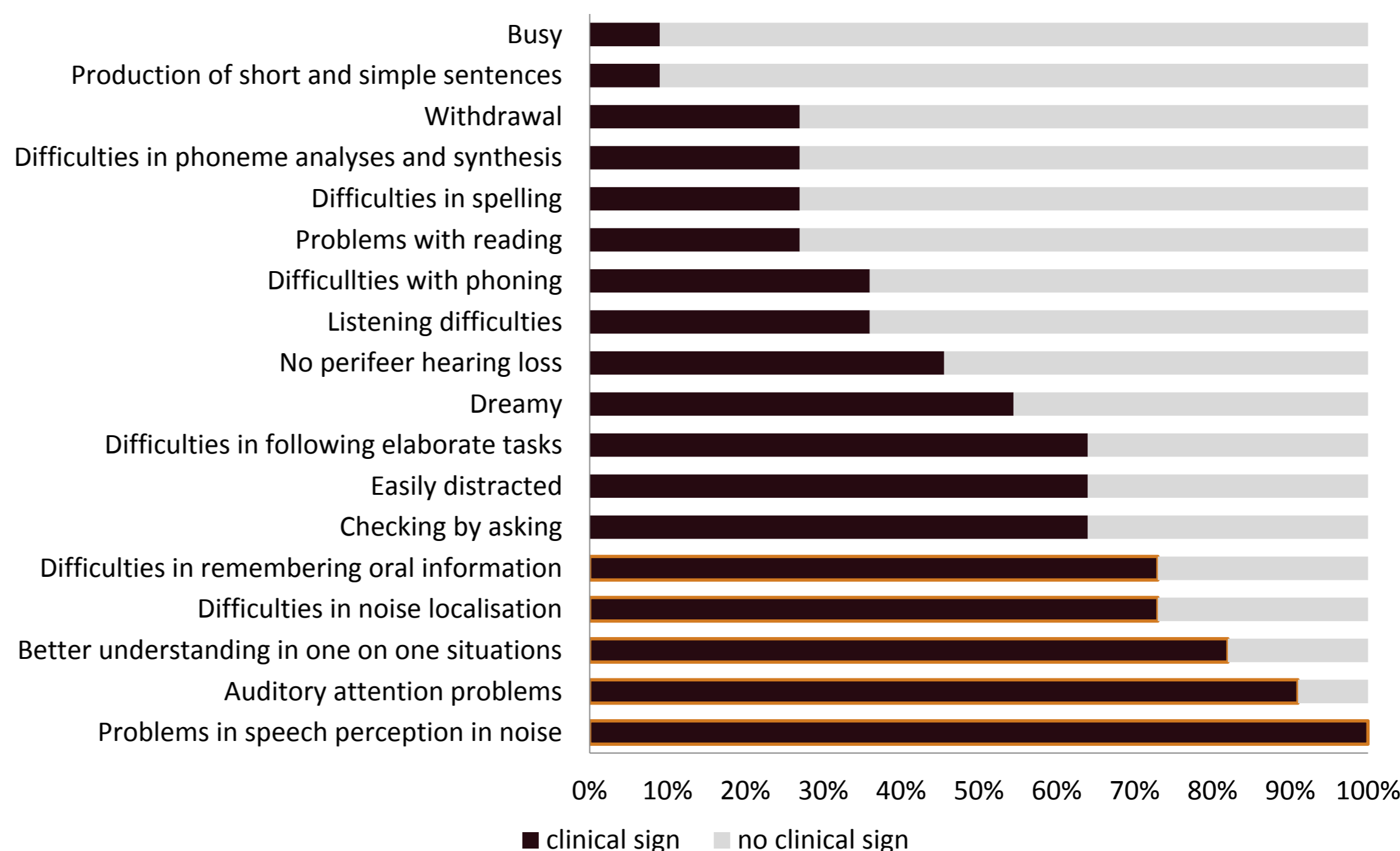


	ADHD	Dyslexia	SLI
➤ That APD is associated with ADHD (82%), Dyslexia (91%) and SLI (82%) and on the question <i>how</i> APD may be associated with ADHD and dyslexia			
- APD is another name for ADHD/Dyslexia/SLI	0%	0%	0%
- APDs are part of ADHD/Dyslexia/SLI	89%	80%	44%
- APDs are consequences of ADHD/Dyslexia/SLI	11%	0%	11%
- APD causes ADHD/Dyslexia/SLI	0%	10%	11%
- There is no relation, these disorders may accidentally occur together	0%	10%	33%

- That children with APD should be referred for assessment to a multidisciplinary team with the following disciplines:



- On five clinical signs associated with APD



CONCLUSIONS & CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

- The five clinical signs that the respondents agreed on as a possible clinical sign for APD can be used as a start to develop care pathways for children with listening problems
- It is important to take into account that these clinical signs might be part of different profiles across related disorders such as SLI, dyslexia and ADHD
- As a consequence, healthcare professionals should be aware of the need of multidisciplinary diagnostics in which SLP's, audiologists, psychologists, and orthopedagogues are included



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