

# INTRODUCTION

---

The field of speech-language pathology is rapidly evolving into a diverse profession with sub-specialties in many areas of education and rehabilitation. This trend is highlighted by the institution of ASHA's special interest divisions and the current trends toward specialty recognition. Over the past 20 years, there has been a dramatic increase in the involvement of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in the evaluation and treatment of voice disorders. Collaboration between ENT physicians and SLPs is now the gold standard of care for patients presenting with a wide variety of conditions that may affect the voice.

As this trend develops, many SLPs are obtaining continuing education to gain current knowledge in a rapidly changing field. It is vital that we have a working knowledge of disorders and pathologies that we are now being asked to treat. This "working knowledge" calls upon our ability to incorporate anatomy, neurology, speech science, and voice training.

There are many current texts in the area of evaluation and treatment of voice; however, there are few available resources for treatment ideas and stimulus tasks. Many clinicians are adapting therapy materials and stimuli from motor speech manuals/workbooks to target voice goals.

*The Source for Voice Disorders* was designed to assist clinicians with both the evaluative tools and therapy tasks to provide services to patients with both functional and medical (organic/neurological) diagnoses. It is a functional, clinical manual useful for clinicians with varying degrees of experience with voice disorders.

Treating patients with voice disorders may be intimidating for many clinicians, generally because the clinicians treat these patients relatively infrequently. Therefore, this book is organized to provide easy reference of a diagnosis with etiology, physiology, and corresponding recommendations for treatment.

**Chapter 1** serves as a reference to identify anatomic landmarks relative to the larynx and respiratory system and as a review of neurological diagnoses and their effects on voice and speech.

**Chapter 2** focuses on evaluation techniques and development of appropriate goals and treatment plans.

**Chapter 3** covers a multitude of vocal disorders and pathologies. These first three chapters offer diagnostically useful information as well as suggestions for treatment.

**Chapter 4** is a compilation of therapy tasks and stimuli designed for use with patients and can be photocopied for home practice.

**Chapter 5** reviews evaluation and treatment of head and neck cancer patients, including laryngectomy and vocal rehabilitation.

A glossary of terms and a list of resources have also been included for clinical reference as well as a list of references used in the compilation of this book.

The evaluation and treatment of voice disorders is a collaborative process involving many professionals. Keep in mind the medical and social aspects of the disorder to make appropriate referrals and coordinate effective interdisciplinary treatment. These patients offer new challenges to our clinical skills and being an integral part of their rehabilitation can be extremely rewarding.

Sandy