Spouse- versus self-estimated hearing disability

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Spouses and significant others (SO) have frequent opportunities to observe the disabling effects of hearing impairment. They also have an important role in the hearing-impaired person's rehabilitative process.

The judgements of SOs could provide information that a clinician could use in designing a rehabilitative plan. This poster explores the relationships between the disability estimates of SOs with corresponding judgements of hearing-impaired listeners.

Method

Participants

Hearing-Impaired Adults (n = 49)

34 Males, 15 Females

Mean 4FAHL = 55 (SD = 12)

Significant Others (n = 49)

37 spouses, 7 children/relatives, 5 close friends

Measures

PHAB (unaided) subscales

Familiar Talkers FT

EC Ease of Communication

RV Reverberation

RC Reduced Cues

BN Background Noise

AV Aversiveness of Sounds

LOCATE Localization Abilities in

HSI Hearing Screening

DS Distortion of Sounds Typical Environments Inventory

PHAB RV PHAB BN HSI The rank-order rank-order Average PHAB BN Average PHAB RV The Average HSI judge-The rank-order relationship between judgements were not relationship between ments were not signifijudgements were not relationship between self-rated and SOself-rated and SOsignificantly different self-rated and SOsignificantly different cantly different across rated BN disability rated RV disability across across rated HSI disability a t e r s strong (F = 0.01; p = .917). (F = 0.68; p = .411).(F = 2.45; p = .121).was strong (r = .68; p < .001).(r = .75; p < .001).(r = .67; p < .001).SD Mean SD Mean BN-SO SD HSI-SO RV-SO Mean 17 18 Self 62% Self 62% .48 Self 3.33 19 63% 21 SO 65% 3.51 .59 50 50 HSI-SELF RV-SELF BN-SELF **PHAB FT** PHAB DS LOCATE rank-order SOs judged signif-The rank-order Average LOCATE SOs judged signif-The rank-order relationship between relationship between licantly higher icantly relationship between judgements were not higher for self-rated and SOself-rated and SOself-rated and SOdisability disability significantly different familiar talkers, FT, rated FT disability rated LOCATE disdistortion of sounds, rated DS disability moderate than hearingmoderate ability was strong DS, than hearing-(F = 1.60; p = .209).(r = .49; p < .001).impaired listeners (r = .41; p = .003).(r = .62; p < .001)impaired listeners (F = 6.31; p = .014).(F = 5.08; p = .026).LOCATE-SO Mean SD SD Mean SD Mean Self 27% 16 20 Self 2.60 .62 Self 39%

PHAB RC

SD

14

17

.70

Average PHAB RC judgements were not significantly different raters (F = 1.86; p = .176).

Mean

64%

Self 60%

SO

SO 2.77

The rank-order relationship between self-rated and SOrated RC disability was moderate (r = .36; p = .011).

LOCATE-SELF

RC-SO 50 RC-SELF

Average PHAB EC

22

judgements were not significantly different across raters (F = 3.79; p = .055).

SO 36%

Mean SD 20 Self 43% 23 52% 50 EC-SELF

PHAB EC

Average PHAB AV The rank-order relationship between judgements were not self-rated and SOsignificantly different rated EC disability across moderate (F = 2.42; p = .123).(r = .33; p = .021).

50

FT-SELF

SD Mean AV-SO 18 Self 28% 19 SO 22%

SO

49%

25

raters

PHABAV

The

50

DS-SELF

rank-order

negligible

AV-SELF

relationship between

self-rated and SO-

rated AV disability

(r = -.02; p = .895).

Rater differences

In the Familar Talkers (FT) and Distortion of Sounds (DS) PHAB subscales, SOs tended to estimate more disability than hearingimpaired people. Further work is needed to determine whether this means that SOs overestimate problems in these areas, or if hearing-impaired listeners underestimate their level of problems.

Conclusions

For the remaining measures, no significant differences across raters were found.

Individual differences

The size of rank-order relationships between selfreported and SO-reported disability varies across disability domains. Domains with directly observable failures in hearing (e.g. RV, BN, etc.) tend to show strong Self-SO relationships. SO judgements should not be relied upon in domains without directly observable failures.

