REPORT  2014 OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHONIATRICS

(1) Advanced voice function analysis and evaluation

The work completed up till now in the field of practical assessment of strongly irregular voices (substitution voices and spasmodic dysphonias) has been summarized in a review article (Moerman & al. 2014). Further work is still going on about the analysis of tracheoesophageal voices with a prosthesis including a VPE (voice producing element).

(2) Occupational voice pathology

Another topic of interest was the occupational voice, particularly from a medicolegal point of view. The importance of voice loading in the pathogenesis of occupational voice diseases was investigated by means of ambulatory voice dosimetry (Cantarella & al. 2014). Also a tutorial article was written on the subject : Voice dosimetry and monitoring, with emphasis on professional voice diseases: Critical review and framework for future research. (Manfredi & Dejonckere, 2014). A novel tool based on synthesized deviant voices with variable added levels of noise and jitter was tried out to check the validity of different acoustic analysis programs, and to improve the perceptual rating of patient’s voices with vocal fold nodules (Rruqja & al., 2014).

(3) Occupational exposures in the etiology of laryngeal cancer

There is a growing interest in the occupational etiologies of laryngeal cancer. It was agreed to not create a separate Committee, but to include this topic of interest within the Phoniatrics Committee. In Helsinki (2012) was proposed an « Occupational Inventory » (including confounding factors), based on current knowledge on (potential) occupational etiologies of laryngeal cancer. Such an «Occupational Inventory » is intended for patients having been diagnosed with laryngeal cancer. In Antalya was decided that, for methodological reasons, a first attempt should be to differentiate the occupational profiles of patients with endolaryngeal and hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas. The inventory has been so far translated in French, Dutch and Italian. Dr. Moerman has already presented her pilot study comparing the outcomes of occupational inventories in both categories, and these first results appear promising.

References