



# Things You May Not Know About SSW



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# 5 Quick Questions About SSW



2:30 – 3:00

# Please Respond if You Know Answer

- **What's youngest age which we have SSW norms?**
- Yes, 5-year-olds
- We have some data for 4 year olds, but not enough for a norm. If you have any 4-y-o kids without CAPD ...
- **The 5-yr vs. 6-yr norms look screwy. Why?**

Age	RNC	RC	LC	LNC	Total
5	2	10	11	3	23
6	4	10	15	5	28

- 5-yr (& below) use only 20 items!

# So Far So Good

- **What is the oldest age norm for SSW?**
- 60-69 yr
- **Why don't we have norms for older people?**
- We tried 70s & 80s but aging appears too variable.
- **What norm would you use if Johnny will turn 8 the next day?**

Age	RNC	RC	LC	LNC	Total
7	2	7	12	2	22
8	2	5	7	3	16

- I don't know; that's why I'm asking you

# SSW & Hearing Loss

- Conductive loss for  $\geq 20$ dB ABG (sp. freq.) PL=30dB SL
- SSW Max = 25-50+dB SL
- But normals can go lower: ~15dB SL & higher ~60+dB
- SN loss max loss (sp. freq.) for SSW 80-85dB HL
- Correction Factor (Original/Traditional Anals) cochlear very good to ~40dB HL
  - I suspect increasing CNS involvement (in fact since...)
  - CSSW works well for site of lesion (overcorrected CSSW)
  - VIII N & low brainstem major overcorrected (-13/-28)

*I think I've said it before*  
**Our Job is to Get It Right !**

- Technicians & assistants are expected to follow the rules scrupulously
- Professionals are given some leeway to GIR
- I believe that the B-M tests are excellent: provided so much accurate info for patient after patient over many years.
- But the professional knows more about patient and what is trying to be learned in ea. case, so that should be factored
- Here are some variations that I have used:

# Common Variations

- We try to follow all of the guidelines, but what if child
  - Is yawning and eyes drooping during evaluation
  - Or is working so hard on many items that they will not be able to finish test with reasonable attention
- Give a break, talk/sing or tell jokes, get child out of chair, jumping jacks
- If case hx indicates fatigue or see great effort on WRS especially 6/7 yr olds I will reduce WRS to 10 items if 1st 9/10 items correct for each ear & agrees with...

# If a Person:

- Struggles greatly on SN, SSW, PS I will stop because
  - Can finish at a later date
  - Don't want to leave a bad taste for CAP work
  - If child burns out then obtain incorrect info on such tests
- For SN I try to get at least 20 items for each ear
- For SSW 20 items can make good approximations by doubling scores (not Ear/Order/TpA)
- For PS if 4/5 previous words in error I approximate scores by considering the remaining ones in error

# If Fewer Items

- Generally indicate ‘~xx’ especially on reports
- Generally completed test scores are very close
- If you make a PEA (pho error anal) I indicate reduced items for various tests, but add the additional errors when the test is completed at a later date.
- Usually those who need this modification have strong indicators without the rest of the items so therapy is not delayed.

# People Who are Mute Can be Tested with SSW

- In '70 Jody Glass developed multiple-choice SSW test
- She made it for children with severe CP who could not speak but could read and point well enough
- When I went home I made a multiple-choice test for the first 20 items (see copy & instructions).
- 3 spondees (2 sponds for item & 1 spond +20 item) mixed  
stairs down brush up tooth down
- I used it with aphasics & one person wrote answers



# What About Reversals



3:00 – 3:20



# Engineer's Reversal

- Dave Johnson did normative study with strange results
  - Younger children had few reversals & older ones lots of funny reversals 1, 3, 2, 4.
  - Then I asked him what directions did he give.
  - He gave regular instructions but added, “Say the first word first, the second word second and so on”
  - I told him that’s the problem, older kids followed instruct. (on almost half of the SSW items #3 starts slightly before)

# Followup

- To check this we studied UB students
  - 6 who had regular instructions had 4 reversals
  - 6 who had Dave's instructions had 83 reversals
- Someone told me Engineers give 1, 3, 2, 4 reversals
  - My take on that is Engineers tend to be precise
  - Repeating them temporally more important than linguistic
- Engineer's reversals may not be real reversals
- Story: Canadian conference

# If a Person Has Lots of Reversals

- That might simply be compensation, you can check this
- Wait until you have finished item #20 and then ask “How are things going? Then ask, “Are you saying the words pretty much how you hear them?” ...  
“Well just say them the way you hear them.” They might..
- There should be no reversal on #21, but...
- Statistically & practically you can estimate total reversals from 1st 20 items ( $x2$  or  $x2+1$ )

# Summary

- Most of you would agree that the SSW is a mighty fine
- But there is so much to it that it does not hurt to have an occasional review. Did anyone know all the info?
- A colleague told me that she attended a conference & when speaker asked about the SSW she wrinkled ...
- It's the oldest central test in continuous use & also...
- I have tried to update it but they were not as good
- I will write out some suggestions that I think will be more successful than my attempts.



**Thank You!**

