



Professional Day

Friday, August 2, 2019

Application of Behavioral Strategies to Address Feeding Difficulties Among Children with CHARGE Syndrome

Dr. Hallie Smith, Kennedy Krieger Institute

Presenter Information

Dr. Smith is a licensed psychologist and behavior analyst at the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program. Dr. Smith currently serves on the interdisciplinary treatment team and supervises cases in the day treatment and inpatient program while also conducting direct behavioral treatment with children with feeding disorders and their families in the outpatient program. Dr. Smith completed her doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine/Kennedy Krieger Institute. Dr. Smith received her PhD in School Psychology from Mississippi State University and was an active member in the Bulldog CHARGE Syndrome Research Lab during her time in graduate school. Dr. Smith's current research interests involve applications of evidence-based behavioral treatments to increase oral feeding among children with complex medical histories, genetic disorders, and developmental delays. Dr. Smith has also evaluated the use of specific behavioral interventions to increase self-feeding within this population.

Presentation Abstract

This presentation will provide professionals with an overview of various evidence-based behavioral strategies to address food refusal and food selectivity in a pediatric population while also presenting data from 3 case examples to demonstrate the application of these strategies to children with CHARGE Syndrome. Data from 3 individuals will be presented to support the use of various behavioral strategies at decreasing tube dependence, increasing acceptance of solid food and liquid by mouth, increasing variety of food consumed, increasing self-feeding, and decreasing problem behavior during meal times. This presentation will also include a discussion of the differences between sensory-based and behavioral-based approaches to treatment as well as outcome data regarding the two approaches and recommendations regarding an individual's appropriateness for the use of behavioral-based strategies. Overall, this presentation will provide attendees with an increased understanding of how feeding difficulties in children with CHARGE syndrome can be addressed from a behavioral perspective as well as an understanding, based on data, that behavioral strategies do lead to positive feeding-related outcomes among individuals with CHARGE syndrome.

Learning Objectives

- Attendees will learn that many feeding difficulties in children with CHARGE syndrome can be addressed from a behavioral perspective.
- Attendees will learn about the application of a few behavioral-based treatments to address food refusal and food selectivity.