



CENTRAL AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDERS



Mt. Harrison Audiology

and Hearing Aids LLC

www.MtHarrisonAudiology.com

Most people are familiar with dyslexia, where the brain confuses signals from the eye. A similar situation can happen with what the ear detects and how the brain uses those sounds. Auditory processing relates to how the brain uses signals from the ear. When there is a disorder, we need to gather data on how the brain is using sound so that we can help the patient use those signals more effectively through therapy.

What Is CAPD?

Parents may suspect a hearing loss, but in many cases, the cause is a behavioral disorder known as Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD). An estimated five percent of school-age children suffer from CAPD, a condition that affects their ability to process information correctly due to a disconnect between what they are hearing and how their brain responds.

Most children with CAPD don't actually have hearing loss. Studies have shown the majority are able to hear normally in quiet environments; the problem is in the way they process auditory information. Symptoms may range from mild to severe and include difficulty with any of the following:

- Hearing in noisy environments
- Following conversations
- Remembering spoken information
- Maintaining focus and attention
- Following directions
- Reading and spelling
- Processing nonverbal information

How Is CAPD Diagnosed?

Children with CAPD may become withdrawn, isolated and depressed. They often become disruptive and may take unnecessary risks or lash out at others. Because many of the behavioral issues closely mimic those associated with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other learning disabilities, an incorrect diagnosis is often made.

Next Steps

An audiologist can determine the exact nature of your child's issues through a routine hearing test, which will rule out any physical hearing problems by testing their ability to hear a range of frequencies. If no hearing loss is present, behavioral and electrophysiological testing is administered.

At Mt. Harrison Audiology & Hearing Aids, we recommend bring your child in for testing whether you suspect a loss of hearing or CAPD.

Source: Bellis, T.J. Understanding auditory processing disorders in children. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

CONSUMER NOTICES

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