

Report SIG Communication & Swallowing

5 December 2020, ZOOM-meeting (RIMS conference 2020)

List of participants: Mireia Alvedert Serra (ES), Leena Maria Heikkola (FI), Louise Hovald Nørgaard (DK), Hélène Mathy (BE), Sofie Noë (BE), Leonie Ruhaak (chair) (NL)

COVID-19

We have discussed how our work settings changed during COVID-19. A few of us started to do paper work and literature research during the first lock down. Some others had to support nurses with feeding inpatients. Soon after these first weeks plans were made to treat patients outside of the institutions; through telerehabilitation or home visits. The problem with telerehabilitation is that not in every country this way of treatment can be reimbursed. The experience of Louise with home visits is very positive, because you can see the patients in their home environment: "I can really make a difference." After a while everyone was able to see inpatients again, but less and with strict time schedules to limit the risk. It asks a lot of flexibility from us.

APACS

Leena Maria explained our plans for translation and validation of APACS. As the deadline of the RIMS Grant application has been postponed to next year, we have more time to work on it. In the winter of 2021 we will have another online meeting.

Inventory of knowledge gaps

In our two-yearly discussions some topics tend to come back. We decided to do an inventory on knowledge gaps in the field of communication and swallowing in MS. We have started to elaborate on problems we face in diagnosing and treating dysphagia. Leonie will make a Google doc in which everyone can contribute. The link will be sent by email to the members of the SIG. During the next in-between meeting we will work further on this document, but we encourage everyone to make adjustments in the meantime.

Organisational aspects

Francesca De Biagi has recently resigned from being co-chair as she has changed jobs. During our meeting we have agreed on Leena Maria Heikkola being ad interim co-chair. During the next conference there will be an official election for chairs and co-chairs.