

Response to “Speech problems and speech delay: possible underdiagnosis of selective mutism”

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Dear Editor,

We thank Rodrigues Pereira et al. for their interest in our recent article.¹ We also appreciated their contribution about selective mutism and the interesting case report.

Selective mutism is characterized by failure to speak in certain social situations despite speaking normally in other settings. It is classified as an anxiety disorder, which interferes with daily functioning of the patient. Selective mutism can be easily misdiagnosed/undiagnosed in routine pediatric assessments. However, our clinic is a referral center and we evaluate patients with detailed medical and social history. In our study, in addition to the developmental evaluation, detailed psychosocial history was obtained from all participants. We believe this approach minimized the risk of missing the diagnosis

of selective mutism in our work. Furthermore, similar to the patient presented by Rodrigues Pereira et al., we are currently following two patients (1 boy and 1 girl) diagnosed with selective mutism based on the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria² in our Developmental Pediatrics Clinic.

We are looking forward to reading the trial mentioned by Rodrigues Pereira et al. and new protocols, which provide behavioral therapy for selective mutism.

REFERENCES

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2. American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-5®). American Psychiatric Pub, 2013.