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Developing an intervention protocol for the production of relative clauses in Lebanon

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Production of complex structures such as relative clauses is identified to be particularly difficult for individuals with Language Impairment (LI) (Delage, Monjauze, Hamann, & Tuller, 2007; Frizelle & Fletcher, 2014). Intervention protocols for the production of these structures have been proposed, but their effectiveness is yet to be confirmed. According to Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) guidelines, key components to an intervention include transparent theoretical underpinnings and measuring its effectiveness through well designed methodological procedures (Law et al., 2012). Such guidelines particularly need to be applied in Lebanon, a country where little is done in the field of intervention. To date, Lebanese Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) lack theory-based intervention approaches taking into account the specificities of the Lebanese spoken language and the country's population. The current study sought to design a remediation protocol anchored in a solid framework of both theoretical rationale and intervention techniques. The procedure adopted to develop such a protocol included an in-depth review of the relevant literature as well as the outcome of a questionnaire addressed to Lebanese SLTs to better understand how they meet the needs of individuals with LI in their practices. The intervention protocol targeted the production of relative clauses via a metalinguistic approach based on linguistically motivated approaches related to the nature of deficits in complex syntax in LI. Future perspectives include both a pilot and an effectiveness study with a rigorous methodological background.