

An investigation into the relationship between rhythm and intonation in ataxic dysarthria

We are currently recruiting participants for a study on speech rhythm and melody in people with ataxic dysarthria. Dysarthria is a speech disorder associated with poor coordination of the speech muscles. We are particularly looking for people with Friedreich's Ataxia who experience difficulties with their speech.

Research studies have found that speakers with ataxic dysarthria have problems coordinating their speech muscles and timing their speech movements correctly. This can result in monotonous speech. Alternatively, they may have sudden, uncontrolled excursion of pitch or loudness. Speakers also tend to have a slower speech rate, and the rhythm of the language can be disturbed. These factors can have a negative effect on the intelligibility and the communicative effectiveness of the speakers, and ultimately affect quality of life.

We want to find out in what way these different problems are related and in what way they might influence each other, in order to better understand the symptoms and causes of ataxic dysarthria. It is hoped that the results of this study can ultimately lead to improved ways of treating ataxic dysarthria by identifying compensatory strategies to reduce impairment and improve intelligibility.

We are looking for participants from the Edinburgh and Glasgow regions who show some deficits with their speech. We will be audio recording participants reading a list of sentences and a short text. Each recording session should not take longer than 1 hour and can be spread out over several days.

If you think you might be interested in participating or would like more information about the study, please contact Cordula Klein (cordula.klein@strath.ac.uk; Tel: 0141 9503059) or Dr. Anja Lowit (a.lowit@strath.ac.uk; Tel: 0141 9503531).

[More information on this project](#)