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Dysarthria

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Definition

Dysarthria is a motor speech disorder caused by generalized weakness to the oral musculature that occurs as a result of damage to the central and/or peripheral nervous system (Duffy 1995; Freed 2000; Vinson 2007; Zemlin 1998). This damage may occur as a result of stroke, head injury, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, or other brain injury (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association n.d.; Freed 2000). As a consequence of oral musculature weakness, the speech of individuals with dysarthria is slow and labored, and their articulation is imprecise (Freed 2000; Zemlin 1998). Other areas of speech may also be affected including respiration, voicing, and prosody (Duffy 1995).

See Also

- [Articulation Disorders](#)
- [Speech](#)

References and Reading

- ASHA. (n.d.) Dysarthria. In *American-speech-language-hearing-association speech disorders*. Retrieved 5 Jan 2011 from http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/language_speech.htm
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- Zemlin, W. R. (1998). *Speech and hearing science: Anatomy and physiology* (4th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.