Linguistic and emotional prosody in relation to central auditory processing disorders in older individuals.

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In older age, a decline in maintaining interpersonal relationships is observed, which is partially caused by deteriorating hearing quality. This study focuses on assessing auditory processing and its relationship with the perception of linguistic and emotional prosody.

The study group consisted of 30 individuals with a mean age of 63.4 years (SD = 5.21). The Brain Boy Universal Professional tool was used to measure Low-level auditory functions such as Auditory Order Threshold, Spatial Hearing, Pitch Discrimination, Choice Reaction Time, Auditory Motor Coordination, Frequency Pattern Test, Duration Pattern Test, and Emotional and Linguistic prosody subtests from the Right-Hemisphere Language Battery (RHLB-PL).

The aim of the research was to assess the profile of central auditory processing disorders in elderly individuals (without hearing loss as determined by audiometric testing) and their relationship with the perception of emotional and linguistic prosody.

The study revealed significant relationships between the perception of emotional prosody and various aspects of Low-level auditory function, such as spatial hearing, reaction time, and the recognition of frequency and temporal patterns. Similarly, significant correlations were observed between the perception of linguistic prosody and pitch discrimination, frequency pattern recognition, and temporal pattern recognition. The results indicate that older individuals may experience a decline in functions related to frequency differentiation, pattern recognition, sound discrimination, and reaction speed. This decline in central auditory processing functions is associated with the perception of both emotional and linguistic prosody, thereby impairing communication quality in older adults.