



# Speech Defect and Speech Therapy

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## Introduction

**Speech defect:-** is type of communication disorder where normal speech is disrupted. someone who is unable to speak due to a speech disorder is considered mute.

**Speech therapy:-** it is a rehabilitative procedure undertaken in order to help the people having any kind of communication disorder or problems and some swallowing problems.

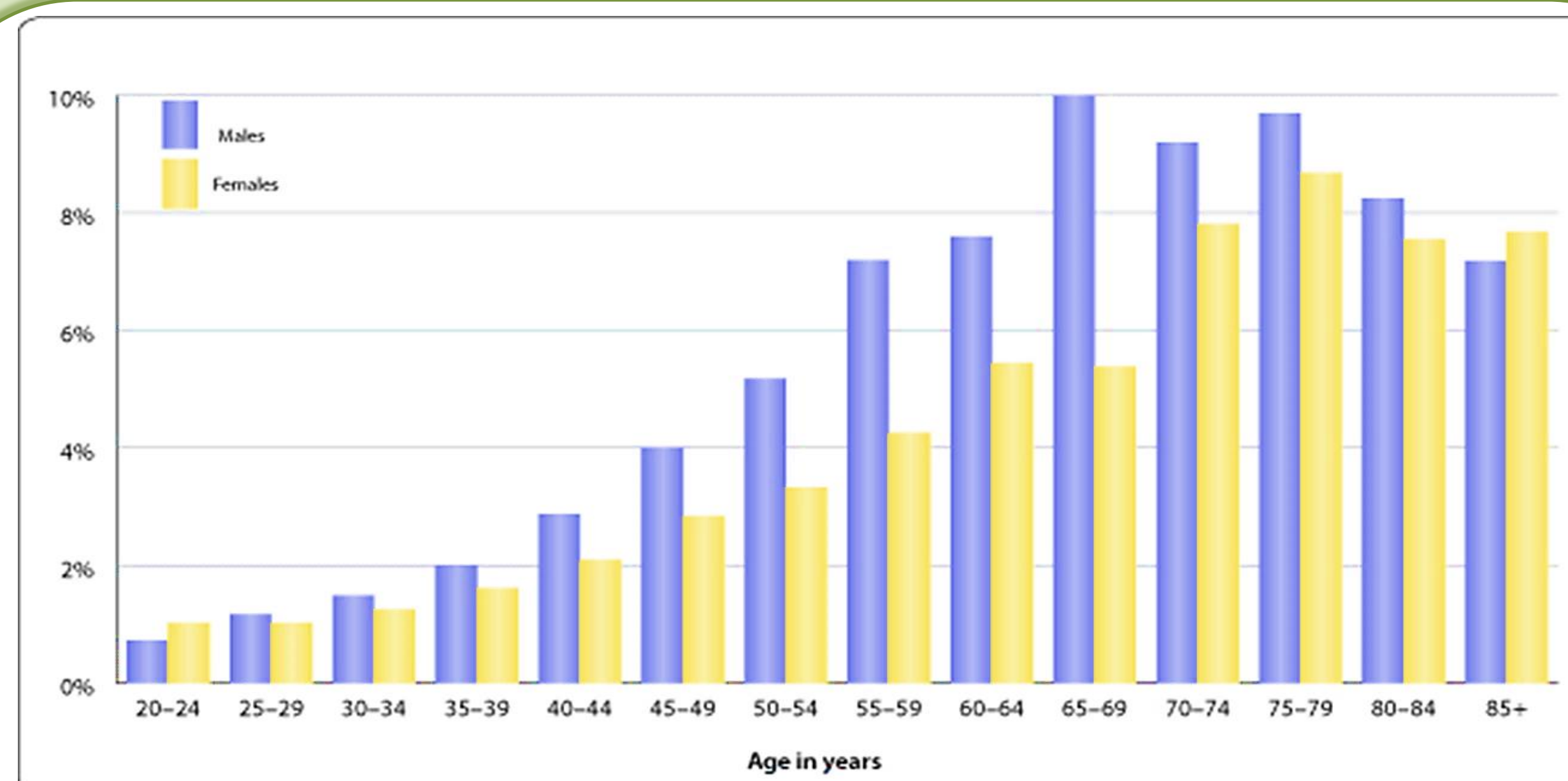


Figure (2) Statistics of Speech Disorder<sup>3</sup>

Treatment varies and depends on the type of disorder. In speech therapy, a professional therapist will guide you through exercises that work to strengthen the muscles in your face and throat. You'll learn to control your breathing while speaking. Muscle-strengthening exercises and controlled breathing help improve the way your words sound. You'll also learn ways to practice smoother, more fluent speech.<sup>4</sup>

## Types of speech defect

1-Apraxia of Speech  
2-Stuttering– Stammering

3-Dysarthria  
4-Lisping

5-Spasmodic Dysphonia  
6-Cluttering

7-Muteness – Selective Mutism  
8-Aphasia

Figure(1) Types of Speech Defect<sup>1</sup>

## Causes Speech Disorders:

- 1- Vocal cord damage
- 2- Brain damage
- 3- Muscle weakness
- 4- Respiratory weakness
- 5- Strokes
- 6- Nodules on the vocal cords
- 7- Vocal cord paralysis<sup>1</sup>

## Conclusions

- Speech defect is type of communication disorder it has 8 types , the commonest type is stuttering – stammering.
- Autism patient at high risk of developing speech disorders.
- There is not curable treatment but can improve through speech communication therapy and some may simply go away.

## Apraxia of Speech (AOS):

Happens when the neural pathway between the brain and a person's speech function (speech muscles) is lost.<sup>2</sup>

## Stuttering – Stammering:

Is so common that everyone knows what it sounds like and can easily recognize.<sup>2</sup>

## Dysarthria:

Dysarthria is a symptom of nerve or muscle damage.<sup>2</sup>

## Aphasia:

Is an impairment of language function due to localized brain damage that leads to difficulty in understanding and producing linguistic forms.<sup>2</sup>

## Common conditions that can lead to speech disorders are:

- Autism
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder( ADHD)
- Oral cancer <sup>3</sup>
- Laryngeal cancer
- Huntington's disease
- Dementia <sup>3</sup>

## How are speech disorders treated?

Mild speech disorders may not require any treatment. Some speech disorders may simply go away. Others can improve with speech therapy.<sup>4</sup>

## References

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- 3-Disability Info: Speech and Language Disorders Fact Sheet (FS11)." National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities.
- 4-"Speech Defect." Encyclopedia.com. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1E1-speechde.html>