

THE PREVALENCE OF VOICE PROBLEMS IN JEWISH-ORTHOX BOYS FROM 12 TILL 17 YEARS OLD

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to determine the prevalence of voice problems in Jewish-Orthodox boys from 12 till 17 years old. There was an impression from the clinical practice that this prevalence would be higher in comparison with Flemish boys from the same age. We assessed 50 Jewish boys and 56 Flemish boys with the CAPE-V and the VHI-10. Also we objectified the pitch and loudness of the voices. The prevalence of voice problems in Jewish-Orthodox boys is 52%. For the Flemish group we found a prevalence of 14,3%. This difference is significant on the level of 1% ($p = 0,00$). We can describe the Jewish-Orthodox voices as strained, frail, soft, high and with a breathy factor. The correlation between age and voice problems was moderate ($r_s = -0,422$). This increased prevalence could be caused by a vocal overuse and voice ergonomical elements. We encourage further assessment on this subject to determine the cause of this increased prevalence.