

Interdisciplinary APD Service at the University of Southampton

What is an Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)?

APD is characterised by poor perception of speech and non-speech sounds, has its origins in impaired neural function, and impacts on everyday life primarily through a reduced ability to listen, and so respond appropriately to sounds (BSA APD SIG, 2019).

There are three categories of APD:

- **Developmental APD:** Cases presenting in childhood with normal hearing and no other known aetiology or potential risk factors. Some of these people may retain their APD into adulthood
- **Acquired APD:** Cases associated with a known post-natal event (e.g. neurological trauma or infection)
- **Secondary APD:** Cases where APD occurs in the presence, or as a result, of peripheral hearing impairment. This includes transient hearing impairment after resolution (e.g. glue ear)

Where can I find more information about APD?

There is a new evidence-based online resource, called the APD MESHGuide.

See <http://www.meshguides.org/guides/node/1432>

The APD MESHGuide offers a comprehensive and readable snapshot of what is happening around the world, the evidence-base for APD, guidance for assessment and intervention, and practical handouts. It promotes a high standard of research and evidence-based care and encourages both international and multi-disciplinary collaboration. The aim is to empower professionals, funders and parents in their decision making, and help move the field forward.

Why do we offer an Interdisciplinary Service at the University of Southampton?

An interdisciplinary approach is followed, given the overlap between Developmental APD and other conditions such as Specific Language Impairment and Dyslexia, as well as Acquired/Secondary APD and higher order processes such as language and cognition. This allows for integrated assessment and management, where primary versus secondary concerns can be prioritised to best meet the patient's need and ensure a cost-effective service. The immediate team comprises of Audiologists, Speech-Language Therapists, Teachers of the Deaf/Educational Audiologists and a Clinical Psychologist. The wider team can offer guidance on sensory integration, cognition, written language and medical issues, specifically relating to the ear, nose and throat.

Why a two level system?

A two level system allows for flexibility and is more cost-effective. Level 1 entails a screening assessment and interdisciplinary guidelines for the individual, their parents/family and school/workplace. Level 2 offers a more in-depth assessment and management, if required. For older children and adults it is possible to integrate Level 1 and Level 2 Audiological tests into one session.

What happens next?

We send out questionnaires that need to be completed and returned ahead of the time, together with reports from other professionals.

There is a £30 charge for sending out a questionnaire pack and reviewing questionnaires and professional reports. This will need to be received before a pack is sent out.

The information is then reviewed to:

- Establish the testing that has already been done
- Evaluate the support that is already in place
- Determine whether APD testing will add to what is already in place
- Determine whether we are able to proceed and/or offer a Level 1 and/or Level 2 assessment
- Tailor testing to the individual, i.e. it is possible to select and integrate components of Level 1 and Level 2 into one tailored session to save costs and best meet each individual's needs

Tell me more about Level 1 and Level 2:

Level 1: Interdisciplinary screen and guidelines

- Consultation (30 min) following questionnaires completed prior to appointment
- Educational Audiology screen as part of consultation, for children
- Audiological: Puretone audiology, immittance and speech perception testing in quiet and noise, including testing for spatial processing disorder (1.5 hours)
- Speech and Language screen (1 hour)
- Interdisciplinary report and guidelines for individual, their parents/family and school/workplace
- Demonstration of assistive listening device/remote microphone technology, if indicated

Charge for Level 1: £790

For older children and adults it is possible to integrate Level 1 and Level 2 audiological tests into one session

Additional option at Level 1 (where appropriate)

Dyslexia Screen (1 hour) **Charge: £165**

Level 2: In-depth assessment and management

Level 2 will be tailored to meet each individual's needs but could cover the aspects below, as appropriate.

- Further audiological testing: ABR and/or audiological APD test battery
- Speech and language assessment
- School/place-of-work visit
- Full dyslexia assessment, including cognitive assessment
- Interdisciplinary report and individually tailored home-programme. We are unable to offer one-to-one sessions
- Demonstration of assistive listening device/remote microphone technology, if indicated

Additional charge for Level 2 is based on individual needs but is approximately £165-£190 per session including report writing.

Full costs are outlined at the time appointments are offered.