

Predictors of Communicative Participation in Individuals with
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
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Communicative participation may be described as an individual's ability to exchange information, ideas, and feelings in order to engage in social interactions and build and maintain relationships with others to take part in required and desired life roles. In individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), communication skills are impacted and this can negatively affect communicative participation. If speech-language pathologists (SLPs) have knowledge of factors that predict communicative participation in individuals with ALS, improvements can be made to the quality of care provided by SLPs to support the individuals in managing and compensating for their communication skills and daily participation. This study explores predictors of communicative participation in individuals with ALS. Self-reported data collected from a previous study in a line of research that examines communicative participation in multiple populations with communication impairments including ALS was used for this current study. Results revealed that better speech and swallowing skills and higher levels of speech usage are associated with better communicative participation in this sample. Thus, when making clinical decisions regarding intervention, SLPs can continue their efforts to target speech and swallow abilities, while recognizing other potential existing variables, to support individuals with ALS in maintaining communicative participation.