

Measuring third-party disability in family members of individuals with Parkinson's disease  
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There is literature to indicate that family members of individuals with Parkinson's disease (PD) experience psychosocial burden, stress, and reduced quality of life. However, no literature specifically examines the impact of dysarthria associated with PD on family members. "Third-party disability" is a term developed by the World Health Organization (2001) and refers to "the study of disability and functioning of family members...due to the health condition of significant others" (p.251). Although scales have been developed to examine third-party disability in families of individuals with communication disorders such as hearing loss, no scale exists to measure the impact of communication disorders associated with PD on family members. The purpose of this paper is to review existing scales that measure third-party disability and will be used as a first step to exploring the most relevant constructs that should be included in a scale to measure third-party disability in families of individuals with dysarthria associated with PD.