

# A Comparison of 2 and 5 year Speech Outcomes in Children with CL+/-P

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# Background

- In the UK speech outcome data is routinely collected for all children born with cleft palate at the age of 5 years
- At 5 years speech is measured against agreed national standards including Standard 1 (S1): The achievement of speech with no evidence of a structurally related problem and no cleft speech characteristics (CSCs) requiring intervention
- The Trent Cleft Lip & Palate Network also collect speech outcome data at the age of 2 years
- It is not known, currently, if the data collected at 2 years of age can reliably predict a positive outcome at 5 years

# Aim

**To investigate whether speech outcome data collected at 2 years can predict the outcome at 5 years.**

# Method

- Retrospective audit
- Outcomes at both ages measured against S1 criteria of the national audit outcomes at 5 years (No evidence of velopharyngeal dysfunction - VPD, and no CSCs).

# Method

## Inclusion Criteria

- Children with CL+/P born in the Trent region in 2012 to 2014

## Exclusion Criteria

- missing data at either assessment point
- transferred in or out of area during assessment period
- Identified as having complex needs by age 5 years

# Method

## 2-year judgements

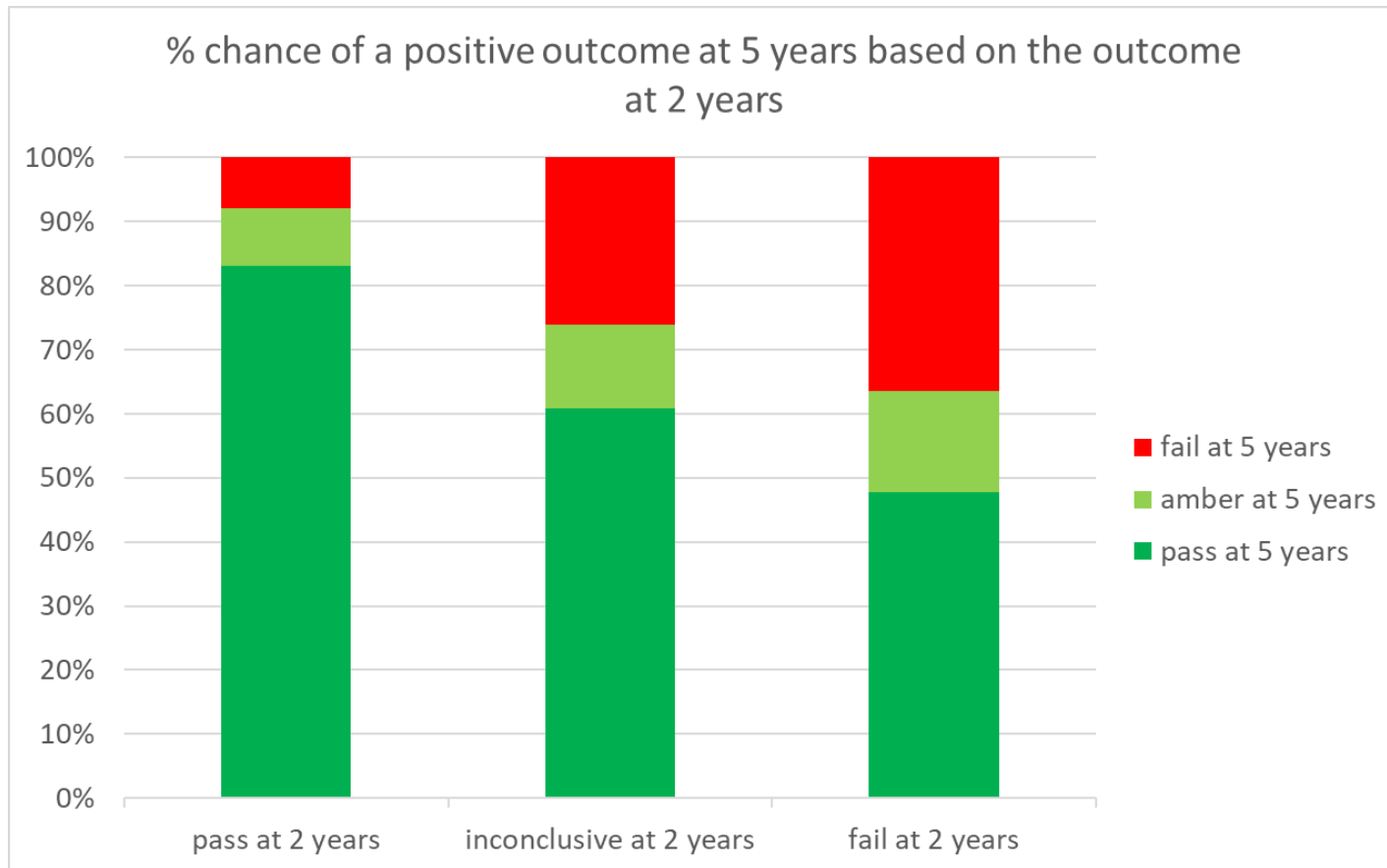
- made by local 'Cleft Link' Speech and language Therapists (SLTs)
- based on a sample of everyday speech and single words.
- categorised as 'pass', 'fail' or 'inconclusive' (insufficient data to provide definitive outcome).

# Method

## 5-year judgements

- made by Specialist Cleft SLTs
- based on a standard CAPS-A speech sample as part of the 5-year audit process
- categorised as 'pass', 'fail' or 'Amber' (minimal VPD and/or minor residual/obligatory anterior CSCs)
- Both 'pass' and 'amber' outcomes at age 5 years were considered 'positive outcomes'

# Results



# Results

		outcome at 5 years									
		pass at 5 years		amber at 5 years		'positive outcome' (pass + amber)		'negative outcome' fail at 5 years			
outcome at 2 years	pass	101	(60%)	84	(83%)	9	(9%)	93	(92%)	8	(8%)
	inconclusive	23	(14%)	14	(61%)	3	(13%)	17	(74%)	6	(26%)
	fail	44	(26%)	21	(48%)	7	(16%)	28	(64%)	16	(36%)
	<b>total</b>	<b>168</b>		<b>119</b>	<b>(71%)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>(38%)</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>(82%)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>(18%)</b>

# Conclusions

- **a positive 2-year outcome is likely to be a good predictor of a continued positive outcome at 5 years.**

# Conclusions

- **The 2-year assessment data is a useful tool to support early identification of children who are likely to require additional targeted intervention in order to achieve a positive speech outcome at 5 years.**

# Effect of Intervention

- Where children did not meet S1 or were inconclusive at 2 years we will have provided targeted intervention
- There was a positive change to their outcome by the age of 5 years in 67% of cases (demonstrating effective intervention?)
- 33% continued to experience significant difficulties beyond the age of 5 (with intervention likely ongoing)

# The ones who 'got worse'

		outcome at 5 years				
		pass at 5 years	amber at 5 years	'positive outcome' (pass + amber)	'negative outcome' fail at 5 years	
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# The ones who 'got worse'

- A small group of children 'passed' at age 2, but experienced emerging CSCs or VPD before 5 years and subsequently did not meet S1 ('got worse'). (n.17, 10% of total cohort)
- Roughly half the time these difficulties were minor and not likely to require further surgery or therapy (n.9/17, 47%)
- Important to continue monitoring beyond a positive 2-year outcome

# Speech and Language Therapy

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