



# Voice and Communication Therapy for the Transgender/Transsexual Client: A Comprehensive Clinical Guide

*By Richard K. Adler, Sandy Hirsch, Michelle Mordaunt*

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The second edition of Voice and Communication Therapy for the Transgender/Transsexual Client is still the only book of its kind. This comprehensive guide includes evidence-based practice about the voice as well as non-verbal areas. Speech-language Pathologists, ENT physicians, and professors within the areas of singing, theatre, and voice disorders will find this text to be a necessary resource.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"This book represents a most useful resource for therapists working with this small, but complex client group. It provides a highly comprehensive approach to all aspects of therapy starting with a thorough examination of evidence-based practice principals to voice therapy, whilst acknowledging that the evidence for the effectiveness of voice therapy is generally weak. Although the authors have aimed the book at therapists who have developed some competencies in working with the TS/TG client, it is an excellent tool for those developing an interest in this field. The psychosocial and psychotherapy chapters consider in detail the social and psychological issues and how they interact with therapy. Standards of care and Treatment plans provide appropriate and achievable therapy goals with aspects of pitch, intonation, rate, volume, syntax, pragmatics and semantics being supported with useful graded therapy exercises. The chapter on Nonverbal Communication, Assessment and Training is a particularly valuable resource. The accompanying CD demonstrates useful therapy examples. Overall this book represents excellent value for money and although written with an American perspective, provides the therapist with a framework to plan effective treatment. [Refers to the First Edition]" Doody Enterprises, Inc., ( --Barbara L. Blagnys, Norwich Primary Care Trust

"This book provides a sound basis of current knowledge and treatment for the transgender/transsexual client population. It is a much-needed reference that includes the diverse aspects of the approach to treatment and serves well as the vanguard in this field...The approach is thorough, taking into consideration the whole client: medically, psychologically, linguistically, pragmatically, vocally. I know of no other book in the field that approaches this topic so thoroughly and completely...An excellent and much needed validating breakthrough." --Mary Moody, MA, CCC-SLP, George Washington University, Doody s Review Service

### About the Author

Dr. Richard K. Adler has been a speech-language pathologist for 36 years. He has worked in a variety of employment settings including public schools, university clinics, hospitals, private practice, and private clinics. He is currently Professor of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences at Minnesota State University, Moorhead (MSUM), where he also directs the Voice Disorders Clinic and supervises undergraduate and graduate students in the MSUM Clinic. In the past three years, he started a Transsexual/Transgender Voice and Communication Program within the MSUM Speech and Hearing Clinic. He has presented many workshops and seminars at local, state, and national speech and hearing conventions in the areas of transsexual voice and communication, traumatic brain injury, multicultural issues, listening skills, interpersonal communication, and gender issues in the voice clinic. He teaches courses in neuroanatomy, adult and pediatric neurogenetics, research, phonetics, introduction to speech language and hearing sciences, and directs research projects and theses in the department; he also teaches Rhetorical Criticism of Feminist Speakers/Lecturers in the MSUM Master of Liberal Arts degree program. Dr. Adler's research areas include traumatic brain injury, multicultural issues, course development, GLBT issues in the academic and clinical setting, and transgender/transsexual voice and communication.

Ms. Hirsch holds a B.A. in French and classics with a minor in music from the University of Lancaster, England and a M.S. in speech-language pathology from the University of Washington. She has been in private practice in Seattle since 1994 serving both business and clinical sectors. She has made voice and communication therapy with the transgender/transsexual population an important focus of her practice. Ms.

Hirsch is also on staff at a Seattle Hospital.

Prior to receiving her Masters' degree, Ms. Hirsch was a professional actress and singer. She continues to be active as an amateur classical and jazz singer. Ms. Hirsch also speaks French, German and serviceable Italian and Spanish. A marriage of performance, language, and clinical backgrounds gives her an unusually rich perspective on voice and communication training, as well as a deep understanding of diverse cultures and personalities. She lives in Seattle with her husband and two sons.

Michelle Mordaunt, M.S. holds a Master's degree from Purdue University, and has been a speech-language pathologist for fifteen years. She has worked primarily with adults in a variety of clinical and hospital settings. From 1995 until 2005, Ms. Mordaunt was the lecturer/clinical supervisor in the area of Voice and Voice Disorders at the University of Washington, Speech and Hearing Department in Seattle, Washington. While at the University of Washington, in addition to serving general voice and speech disorder clients, she developed a comprehensive voice and communication program for Transgender/Transsexual individuals.

Ms. Mordaunt has made frequent presentations in the area of Transgender/Transsexual communication at American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) conventions. She also presented at the Washington State Speech and Hearing Association (WSHA) conference, and has presented at the Northwest Transgender/Transsexual Esprit conference on numerous occasions.

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