Using Measurement Tools in Assessment and Treatment of Dysphagia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that audiologists and speech-language pathologists incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical decision making to provide high-quality clinical care. The term *evidence-based practice* refers to an approach in which current, high-quality research evidence is integrated with practitioner expertise and client preferences and values into the process of making clinical decisions.

Participants are encouraged to actively seek and critically evaluate the evidence basis for clinical procedures presented in this and other educational programs.

Adopted by the Scientific and Professional Education Board, April 2006

ASHA Self-Study 2561

INTRODUCTION

Accurate and consistent measurement during the assessment and treatment of feeding and swallowing disorders is necessary to ensure that clinical decisions best meet patient needs. This journal self-study presents five articles that describe recent research related to the measurement of eating and swallowing behaviors and tools. For those interested in pediatrics, this product addresses the development of a tool to more accurately assess pediatric behavioral feeding issues as well as a description of how chewing develops in young children. For those working with adults, this self-study includes a tutorial on the use of surface electromyography (sEMG) to assess and treat swallowing disorders as well as research on how the perceived taste of a bolus influences swallowing behaviors. A fifth article discusses how the line spread test can be used as a visual tool to quickly and more accurately determine liquid thickness.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
You will be able to:
- Discuss how changes in bolus taste and consistency can influence chewing and swallowing behavior
- Describe how surface electromyography (sEMG) can be used to measure the impact of treatment techniques on swallowing function
- Explain how further research into the use of tools and techniques designed to measure aspects of swallowing treatment—such as bolus consistency, chewing function, and movement of swallowing muscles—may influence clinical decision-making and treatment outcomes

PROGRAM HISTORY

Original start date: July 1, 2014
Peer reviewed: June 4, 2015
Available through: June 4, 2018

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the test with a passing score on or before **June 4, 2018.**

To see if this program has been renewed after this date, please *search by title* in ASHA's online store at *www.asha.org/shop.*

ASHA Professional Development is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for 0.45 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).