Perspectives on Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (Dysphagia)  
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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*

**INTRODUCTION**

This issue included articles reporting on the relationship between the respiratory system and deglutition, two articles summarizing current research regarding long-standing beliefs that a tracheostomy tube has a direct negative impact on swallowing function, current surgical techniques for addressing aspiration, and esophageal phase dysphagia and a final article outlining treatment considerations for patients with cerebral palsy.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

You will be able to:

- discuss the classifications of cerebral palsy subtypes and potential difficulties in swallowing, nutrition, and pulmonary function associated with this disease
- describe the difficulties associated with establishing a causal link between tracheostomy and dysphagia
- summarize the current research literature pertaining to the impact of a tracheostomy tube and a tracheostomy tube speaking valve on swallow function
- analyze relationships between the respiratory system and deglutition and translate this information into the evaluation and treatment of dysphagia

**PROGRAM HISTORY**

- Start date: September 19, 2014
- Available through: August 28, 2017

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the test with a passing score on or before **August 28, 2017**.

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](http://www.asha.org/shop).

This course is offered for 0.2 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).