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.

ASHA Self-Study 21307 SIG 13
INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Perspectives* primarily focused on topics regarding head and neck cancer. Two articles discussed qualitative and quantitative research methods pertaining to cancer survivors and dysphagia. Other articles discussed current surgical techniques in head and neck cancer treatment and rehabilitation strategies for these patients, respectively. The final article discussed factors contributing to the quality of videofluoroscopic images.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- discuss the challenges involved in surgical resection of oral cavity cancers and the primary reconstructive techniques currently in use
- compare and contrast functional outcomes for patients who underwent surgical treatment of head and neck cancer versus those who underwent non-surgical treatment methods
- describe the current research literature examining the impact on individuals caring for someone with a diagnosis of head and neck cancer
- discuss how qualitative research methods can enhance the assessment of swallow function and quality of life following treatment of head and neck cancer
- explain the primary factors and settings that can impact visible image distortions or artifacts on fluoroscopy