

SWALLOWING

Swallowing Disorders

SWALLOWING PROBLEMS are associated with many disorders and conditions, including:

- Neurologic diseases: stroke, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS)
- Dementia
- Head and/or neck cancer
- Esophageal disorders, including reflux (GERD)

COMMON SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

- Coughing or choking during or after meals
- Sensation of food being stuck in the throat
- Pain during swallowing
- Food or liquids leaking from the mouth or being left in the mouth after a meal
- Wet, gurgly voice

DIAGNOSIS may include:

- Laryngoscopy
- Transnasal esophagoscopy
- Modified barium swallow study (MBS)
- Fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing with sensory testing (FEESST)

State-of-the-art Technology

MBS—The Modified Barium Swallow is a radiographic examination. Liquids and solids of varying consistencies, combined with barium, are examined as they move from the mouth through the throat to the top part of the esophagus.



FEESST — An endoscope is passed through the nose to the back of the throat to test both the sensory and motor components of the swallow. Swallow physiology is directly observed.



TREATMENTS available for swallowing disorders include:

- Neuromuscular electrical stimulation
- Surface electromyography
- Muscle strengthening exercises
- Pharmacologic intervention
- Botulinum toxin (Botox)
- Surgical intervention