

Course Objectives

MedBridge

Do Tracheostomy Tubes Affect Swallowing

Debra Suiter, PhD, CCC-SLP,BCS-S

Course Description:

There is equivocal information in the research literature regarding the effects, if any, tracheostomy tubes have on swallow function. It remains unclear if it is the tracheostomy tube per se that affects swallowing or if it is the underlying medical condition necessitating tracheostomy placement. This course will review research findings and clinical implications of those findings for speech-language pathologists working with individuals with tracheostomy tubes.

Course Objectives:

- Discuss typical respiratory-swallow patterns.
- List 3 conditions in which the typical respiratory-swallow pattern is altered.
- Describe how breathing is affected in individuals with tracheostomy tubes.
- Discuss methodological issues in the literature pertaining to effects of tracheostomy tube and swallowing.
- Discuss the effects, if any, tracheostomy tubes have on hyolaryngeal excursion and implications for assessment and treatment.
- Discuss the subglottic pressure theory and its implications for increased aspiration risk in patients with tracheostomy tubes.
- Explain why tracheostomy tube occlusion could affect swallow function.
- Discuss the effects, if any, tracheostomy tubes capping has on swallow function.
- Describe research findings pertaining to use of speaking valves and their effect on swallow function in patients with tracheostomy tubes.