



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center

Course Title: PRO-ACTIVE Trial Results: What Does This Mean For My Dysphagia Practice?

Available until 12/31/2025

Level: Intermediate

Instruction Level: Intermediate

Course Structure:

This course is offered in live, virtual (online) format.

Course Date/Time:

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:30am – 1:00pm CST

Course Description:

This course intends to bridge the recent results of the PRO-ACTIVE trial to dysphagia practice. In this course, participants will gain interdisciplinary perspectives on radiation planning, supportive care, and fundamental pillars of “use it or lose it” for swallowing preservation during head and neck radiotherapy. The course will emphasize practice, evidence-based ways to consider integrating swallowing therapies into dysphagia care models during radiation. Insights about swallow preservation and nutrition will be considered from oncology, nutrition, and speech pathology perspective. Perspectives will share algorithms for screening, evaluation, monitoring, interdisciplinary supportive care, and rehabilitation to mitigate radiation-associated dysphagia.

Course Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe key ingredients of speech pathology evaluation, monitoring, and therapy for swallow preservation during head and neck radiotherapy
2. Describe results of the PRO-ACTIVE trial comparing the preferred timing and intensity of EAT and exercise therapies for swallowing preservation during head and neck radiotherapy
3. Describe practical ways that interdisciplinary teams approach functional preservation and supportive care during head and neck radiotherapy

Time-Ordered Agenda

- 0-5 Introduction (Hutcheson)
- 5-20 Preserving the swallow through RT planning and supportive care (Malik)
- 20-35 PRO-ACTIVE trial: The lived experience (Martino)
- 35-50 PRO-ACTIVE trial results (Hutcheson)

50-65 How to “Use it or lose it” when it doesn’t go as planned (Bryan)
65-90 Moderated panel Q&A all faculty (Hutcheson)

No partial credit will be given for this course.

Completion Requirements:

In order to receive ASHA CEUs, you must complete the following—

1. Watch the webinar in full
2. Complete a post-course evaluation and survey upon completion
3. The post course evaluation will be a self-assessment of learned knowledge.

[Link to Post-Course Evaluation](#)

Policies: Please see home page

Course Disclosures:

Content: N/A

Financial/In-kind support: ATOS Medical – unrestricted education grant

This course is offered for 0.15 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).

Bios/Disclosures:

Dr. Kate Hutcheson

Dr. Kate Hutcheson is a tenured Professor and Deputy Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery with dual appointment in the Division of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She serves as Section Chief and Research Director for the Section of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Dr. Hutcheson is a certified speech-language pathologist practicing in oncology for 20 years, a Board Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S), and holds a Doctorate Degree in Epidemiology. She leads an internationally recognized, extramurally funded clinical research program. She has authored over 175 journal articles with funding support from the National Institutes of Health, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the MD Anderson Institutional Research Grant Award program, and the CPRIT UT Health Innovation Training Program. She is an Associated Editor for the Head and Neck and Dysphagia journals. She is a passionate clinician and educator who lectures nationally and internationally on radiation associated dysphagia and head and neck cancer rehabilitation.

Disclosures:

Dr. Hutcheson receives research funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (R01CA271223, R01CA273984), Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI 1609-36195), the MD Anderson Institutional Research Grant Program, and Atos Medical. Unrestricted Educational Grant outside this Program from Atos Medical. Developer and PI of the DIGEST method. Dr. Hutcheson receives no royalties or personal fees related to this DIGEST content.

Dr. Malik Nauman, MD

Dr. Malik is a Radiation Oncologist and Assistant Professor at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario.

Disclosures:

Dr. Nauman is employed by Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and receives a salary. He has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Dr. Rosemary Martino, Ph.D.

Dr. Martino is Professor and Chair of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto and Senior Scientist at the Krembil Research Institute, University Health Network in Toronto, Ontario.

Disclosures:

Dr. Martino is employed by the University of Toronto/University Health Network and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Rose Bryan, M.A. CCC-SLP

Rose Bryan is a speech-language pathologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

Disclosures:

Ms. Bryan is employed by MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Dr. Kristen Pytynia, MD, MPH

Dr. Pytynia is a Professor and Section Chief for Houston Area Locations within the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

Disclosures:

Dr. Pytynia is employed by MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Teresa Dixon, RD

Ms. Dixon is a registered clinical dietitian at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

Disclosures:

Ms. Dixon is employed by MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.