



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center

Course Title: *Out of the gate: Surgical and SLP collaborations in acute postoperative care to optimize function*

Available until 12/31/2026

Presenters:

Kate Hutcheson, PhD, SLP (MDA)
Carissa Thomas, MD (UC)
Elizabeth Cuadrado, SLP (UC)
Faisal Ahmad, MD (MDA)
Beatrice Manduchi, PhD, SLP (MDA)
Carly Barbon, PhD (MDA) - panelist
Anna Sagan, SLP (MDA) - panelist

Instruction Level: Intermediate

Course Structure:

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

Course Date/Time:

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 11:30 CT 11:30am – 1:00pm CST

Course Description:

This course intends to highlight opportunities to accelerate functional recovery through speech pathology and surgical collaborations in head and neck oncology. This course will specifically focus on bridging gaps in the acute and perioperative phases of post-surgical care. Emerging data on early feeding protocols will be discussed integrating practical considerations for timing and type of SLP swallowing evaluations in the acute and perioperative settings. The faculty will discuss unique considerations for early feeding across various surgeries. Presenters will also share evidence-based algorithms for pre-and acute post-operative care practices in patients undergoing transoral robotic surgery.

Course Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe early feeding protocols after head and neck surgery.
2. Describe type and timing of SLP swallowing evaluations to integrate with early post-surgical feeding protocols.
3. Describe evidence-based algorithms for integrating proactive swallowing evaluation and management in early post-TORS care.

Time-Ordered Agenda

0-5 min.	Introduction (Hutcheson)
5 -20 min.	To feed or not to feed: The Colorado experience with early feeding protocols after HN surgery (Thomas)
20-35 min.	Swallowing evaluation with early feeding protocols: when and how? (Cuadrado)
35-50 min.	Early TORS journey: what to expect from pre-op to post-op? (Ahmad)
50-65 min.	Optimizing the post-TORS swallow: One size fits all? (Manduchi)
65-90 min.	Moderated panel 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.

Faisal Ahmad, MD

Dr. Faisal is a Head and Neck surgeon and Assistant Professor at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Disclosures:

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

Carissa Thomas, MD, PhD, FACS

Dr. Thomas is Assistant Professor and Otolaryngologist in Head and Neck Surgery at University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine

Disclosures:

Dr. Thomas is employed by University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine and receives a salary. Dr. Thomas receives research funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (Grant, collaborator: “Functional Roles of the Human Microbiome and Metabolome in Oral Cancer”, “Functional Roles of the Human Microbiome and Metabolome in Oral Cancer”, “Onco-Immunologic Factors Contributing to OPSCC Among People Living With HIV”, “The REASON Score: An Epigenetic and Clinicopathologic Score to Predict Risk of Poor Survival in Early Stage Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Patients”)

Elizabeth Cuadrado, M.S. CCC-SLP

Elizabeth is a Senior Instructor -speech-language pathologist in Otolaryngology -Head and Neck Surgery at University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine

Disclosures:

Ms. Cuadrado is employed by University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Beatrice Manduchi, PhD

Dr. Manduchi is an Instructor- Research Facility at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Disclosures:

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

Carly E. A. Barbon, PhD

Dr. Barbon is an Assistant Professor of Head and Neck Surgery at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas

Disclosures:

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

Anna Sagan, M.A. CCC-SLP

Ms. Sagan is a Speech –Language Pathologist employed by UT MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose