



**ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER**

**University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center**

Intermediate Level

.15 ASHA CEUs

Management of Velopharyngeal Dysfunction in H&N Cancer: Nobody Nose

Available until 12/31/2026

Level: Intermediate

Course Structure:

This course is a asynchronous course, available on-demand. Participants will have the opportunity to complete course requirements via live or recorded webinar.

Course Description:

In this course, participants will learn interdisciplinary perspectives on evaluation and management of velopharyngeal dysfunction (VPD) in head and neck cancer (HNC). Standard and advanced VPD evaluation methods will be reviewed as they relate to clinical decision making. A decision framework will be introduced for considering procedural, prosthetic, and exercise therapies.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe sources and functional implications of VPD in HNC.
2. Describe considerations for selecting prosthetic, procedural, and exercise therapies for VPD in HNC.
3. Describe evidence-based prosthetic, procedural, and exercise options for VPD in HNC.

Agenda:

- 0-5 Introduction
- 5-20 What to do for VPD? Who nose? (Cunningham)
- 20-35 Toward standardized measurement of VPD (Kallambettu)
- 35-50 VPD Prosthetics: What's possible? (Won)
- 50-65 Fillers aren't just for vocal cords (Ramaswamy)
- 65-90 Moderated panel all faculty (Hucheson)

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, which will be monitored through the website.
2. Complete a post-course evaluation and survey within 48 hours of watching the webinar in full.
3. The post-course assessment will include a multiple-choice test, which must be completed with 100% accuracy. The learner will have unlimited attempts.

[Post-Course Evaluation](#)

Policies: Please see home page

Bios/Disclosures:

Dr. Veena Kallambettu

Veena Kallambettu is a speech pathologist at The Ohio State University - Wexner Medical Center/James Comprehensive Cancer Center specializing in voice and swallowing rehabilitation for patients with head and neck cancer. She graduated with her M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Northern Iowa and completed her clinical fellowship at the University of Iowa's Hospitals and Clinics. She has been recognized for her clinical contributions and program development in velopharyngeal assessment at the local and national level (Elwood Chaney Outstanding Clinician Award and Louis DiCarlo Award for Recent Clinical Achievement). Veena is also a doctoral candidate in speech and hearing science at The Ohio State University with a focus on improving dysphagia rehabilitation outcomes in clinical settings.

Disclosures: Veena is a salaried employee at The Ohio State University – Wexner Medical Center. She is a member of the American-Speech Language Hearing Association and a member of Dysphagia Research Society.

Sarah Jimenez

Sarah Jimenez, MS, CCC-SLP has been an oncologic speech pathologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center for more than 10 years. Her particular areas of interest include dysphagia, voice, and upper airway disorders.

Disclosures: Sarah is a salaried employee of MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is a member of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

Carsyn Cunningham

Carsyn Cunningham, MA, CCC-SLP is a senior speech pathologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center with a high clinical volume in dysphagia and head and neck cancer. She also serves as the section Education Coordinator and on the Texas Speech-Language Hearing Association's (TSHA) Annual Convention Committee as the Speech and Voice strand chair for Programming.

Disclosures: Carsyn receives a salary from MD Anderson Cancer Center, including a stipend for serving as Education Coordinator. She is a member of the TSHA Annual Convention Programming Committee.

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 19 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. Apoorva Ramaswamy

Disclosures: Dr. Ramaswamy is a salaried employee of The Ohio State University. She has no non-financial relationships to disclose.

Dr. Alexander Won

Dr. Alexander Won, DDS, FACP, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, Section of Oral Oncology and Maxillofacial Prosthodontics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He collaborates with Head and Neck Surgery, Radiation Oncology, and Medical Oncology. His primary duties are oral evaluation and treatment of patients with head and neck cancer including prosthetic rehabilitation. His research efforts focus on oral manifestations with patients undergoing stem cell transplant, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and bone targeted therapy.

Disclosures: Dr. Won receives a salary from MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has no non-financial relationships to disclose.