



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

**University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center**

Intermediate Level

.15 ASHA CEUs

Mind the Gap: Pre-hab and Early Post Surgical Rehabilitation

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, participants will learn interdisciplinary perspectives on how to safely implement early post-surgical oral rehabilitation programs in head and neck cancer (HNC). Two novel programs will be introduced for oral rehabilitation focused on lingual and jaw mobilization in the early weeks after surgery. Reconstructive head and neck surgical oncologists will detail evidence-based, pragmatic considerations for soft tissue and bony reconstruction and healing – and argue the cases for (and against) early mobilization.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe early mobilization protocols to accelerate functional recovery prior to adjuvant therapy after head and neck surgery.
2. Describe considerations for rehabilitation in relationship to principles of soft tissue healing.
3. Describe considerations for rehabilitation in relationship to principles of bone healing.

Agenda:

- 0-5 Introduction
- 5-20 Mind the Gap: Move & Chew (Dr. Barbon)
- 20-35 Soft tissue healing: to move or not to move? (Dr. Lee)
- 35-50 Bony healing: move it or lose it? (Dr. Clark)
- 50-65 Under pressure: device facilitated jaw stretching at postop week 3 (Dr. Charters)
- 65-90 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, 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 [Post-Course Evaluation](#)

Policies: Please see home page

How to access the live event:

1. Log into your account
2. Click on the “**View Content**” tab, where you will see the course title.
3. Click “**Launch Zoom Webinar**” at the bottom of the course.
4. Enter requested information and click “**Register**” using the same email address used to register for the activity (this can be done ahead of time and added to your calendar)
5. The day of the event, click “**Join Meeting**”

Note: If participating from a mobile device, you must download the Zoom mobile app to view this live event.

Bios/Disclosures:

Carly Barbon, PhD, SLP

Dr. Carly Barbon is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She completed her PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Toronto where she investigated pathophysiologic and mechanistic drivers of dysphagia after radiotherapy in addition to novel rehabilitative options for glossectomy patients. Dr. Barbon completed her postdoctoral fellowship at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, with a focus on clinician-and patient-reported functional outcomes after oropharyngeal cancer treatment. Her research is focused on modelling objective functional outcomes after treatment for oral cavity and oropharynx cancers, optimizing early post-operative function and characterizing swallow pathophysiology to better identify rehabilitative targets in head and neck cancer survivors.

Disclosures: Dr. Barbon receives a salary from MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Z-Hye Lee, MD

Dr. Lee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She has recently joined the faculty after completing her residency training in New York City and microsurgical fellowship at MD Anderson. She has extensive experience in counseling patients on breast reconstruction including prosthetic and autologous options for patients of all different socioeconomic status. She has experience performing a variety of traditional and innovative autologous free-flaps for reconstructing the breast, and She offers these to any of her patients for whom these procedures are medically appropriate. Her other research interests include evaluating outcomes in both lower extremity and head and neck reconstruction. In the setting of head and neck reconstruction, she has experience using virtual planning and computer-aided design to manufacture patient-specific surgical guides and implants. She is familiar with these technologies and believes the strategies we already use for mandibular reconstruction, for example, could be leveraged in patients undergoing autologous breast reconstruction.

Disclosures: Dr. Lee receives a salary from MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Jonathon Clark, MD

Professor Clark AM is the Director of Head and Neck Cancer Research at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, the Director of Translational Research at the Royal Prince Alfred Institute of Academic Surgery, and the Inaugural Lang Walker Family Foundation Chair and Conjoint Professor in Head and Neck Cancer Reconstructive Surgery. Professor Clark is a leading academic surgeon in the areas of metastatic cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma and oral cancer, where his research has changed the management and staging of both cancers. In recognition of his contributions, he has been made a Member of the Order of Australia and an Honorary Member of the Australian Society of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (ASOHNS). Professor Clark has received >\$35M in research funding and published >400 manuscripts including 18 book chapters with >10,300 citations and a H-index of 64 (GS).

Disclosures: Dr. Clark owns intellectual property rights for Restorabite™ at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

Emma Charters, PhD, SLP

Dr. Charters is the team leader of speech pathology at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. She has developed the service with an integrated research agenda focusing on communication and swallowing rehabilitation after head and neck cancer. Her research interests are swallowing and communication rehabilitation after TORS, restoration of oral competence following facial nerve injury, jaw reconstruction and trismus. Dr. Charters completed her PhD in 2021, her thesis examined the impact that advances in head and neck cancer treatment have on swallowing and communication outcomes. She is the co-developer of a novel; 3D printed device purpose built for trismus rehabilitation and holds a joint clinical and research position at Lifehouse.

Disclosures: Dr. Charters is a joint patent owner of Restorabite™ / Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

Nonfinancial Disclosures: Dr. Charters is the team leader of speech pathology at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and holds an honorary affiliation at the University of Sydney.

Miriam Lango, MD

After completing medical school at the New York University School of Medicine, Miriam Lango pursued residency training at the University of Pittsburgh, and Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery fellowship training at the University of Pennsylvania. She has published on a wide variety of topics in head and neck cancer including functional outcomes, tumor markers, workforce analysis for otolaryngology training, among others. She was a trans-oral robotic surgery (TORS) credentialed surgeon for the ECOG- ACRIN Cancer Research Group Trial (E3311). After over 10 years as a faculty member at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, she joined Houston's University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2019 where she is currently Professor, and Safety/ Quality Lead in Head and Neck Surgery.

Disclosures: Dr. Lango receives a salary from MD Anderson Cancer Center.

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.

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