



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

**University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center**

Intermediate Level

.15 ASHA CEUs

They Can't Aspirate: Dysphagia after Total Laryngectomy

Available until 12/31/2026

Level: Intermediate

Course Structure:

This course is an 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 gain interdisciplinary perspectives on management of dysphagia after total laryngectomy. The course will emphasize common tools in the SLP toolkit that can help assess and mitigate dysphagia after TL. Swallow evaluation protocols for TL recently endorsed by an international delphi will be presented. Presenters will share algorithms for triaging and implementing procedural and behavioral interventions.

Course Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe anatomic and physiologic changes in swallow after total laryngectomy, and common sources of dysphagia.
2. Describe best practice protocols for videofluoroscopy and clinical swallowing evaluation after total laryngectomy.
3. Describe evidence-based and practical tools in the SLP, GI, and surgical domains and a framework to triage management options.

Agenda:

- 0-5 Introduction
- 5-20 Back to the basics: What do we know about swallow after TL? (Hutcheson)
- 20-35 What's the consensus on how we evaluate swallow after TL? (Wilson)
- 35-50 To the theater or to therapy? (van den Brekel)
- 50-65 What can we do? Implementing common tools in the SLP toolbox. (Schwartz)

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 tracked on the Zoom platform which will host this live event.
2. Complete a post-course evaluation and survey within 48 hours of completion.
3. The post-course evaluation will be a self-assessment of learned knowledge.

[Post-Course Evaluation](#)

Policies: Please see home page

How to access the enduring material:

1. Log into your account
2. Click on the “**View Content**” tab, where you will see the course title.
3. Click “**Launch Webinar Video**” at the bottom of the course.
4. View the content in its *entirety*.
5. Complete the “**Post-Test**”.
6. Proceed to the bottom of the course listing to click the “**Post-Course Evaluation Link**”

Bios/Disclosures:**Kate Hutcheson, PhD, SLP**

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.

Sarah Wilson, MPhil, SLP

Sarah Wilson is a Senior Speech Pathologist at The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Queensland, Australia with a specialization in head and neck cancer.

Disclosures:

Ms. Wilson is employed by The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Dr. Michiel van den Brekel, MD

Dr. Michiel WM van den Brekel, MD PhD, graduated “cum laude” from the Medical Faculty of the University of Leuven (Belgium) in 1987. He did his Ph.D. at the Free University and wrote a thesis on “Imaging and Histopathology of Neck Node Metastases”. He was the first to study the value of ultrasound guided aspiration cytology in neck nodes. After his Otolaryngology-residency at the Free University in Amsterdam he did a Head and Neck Fellowship at the Netherlands Cancer Institute and the University of Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital. Since 1997 he has worked as a head and neck surgeon at the Free University Hospital and since 2000 in the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam where he was chairman from 2009 until 2023. In 2011 he was appointed as Professor at the University of Amsterdam. His clinical research focuses on translational medicine, rehabilitation, as well as imaging of head and neck cancer patients. He (co-)authored over 350 peer-reviewed papers and chapters.

Disclosures:

Dr. van den Brekel is employed by the Netherlands Cancer Institute and University of Amsterdam and receives a salary. He has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Talia Schwartz, MS, SLP

Talia Schwartz is a speech pathologist with over 14 years of experience in acute care as well as head and neck oncology. She is currently at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer and specializes in evaluation and management of total laryngectomees.

Disclosures:

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

David Richards, MD, GI (Panelist)

Dr. Richards is an Associate Professor in the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. His interests include the management of complex strictures, dysphagia, GI motility disorders, and the application of novel technologies like EndoFlip and high-resolution manometry. He believes optimal clinical management and study of dysphagia/motility disorders requires a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach.

Disclosures:

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

Lisette van der Molen, PhD, SLP

Dr. van der Molen is a Speech Therapist at Netherlands Cancer Institute and specializes in head and neck cancer.

Disclosures:

Dr. van der Molen is employed by Netherlands Cancer Institute and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.