



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

**University of Texas MD  
Anderson Cancer Center**

Intermediate Level

.15 ASHA CEUs

## *Implementing DIGEST in Videofluoroscopy and Endoscopy*

**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 recorded webinar.

### **Course Description:**

This course describes the development and evidence based for DIGEST as a measure of dysphagia severity for videofluoroscopic and endoscopic evaluations of swallowing. Differences and similarities between DIGEST and DIGEST-FEES will be described. Practical steps to implement DIGEST as a component of swallowing assessment will be outlined including training and reliability considerations.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Describe how to obtain a DIGEST grade using the decision-tree methodology.
2. Demonstrate adaptations made for DIGEST-FEES.
3. Discuss acquisition parameters that impact the validity of the DIGEST grade.
4. Explain the knowledge and skills necessary to reliably implement DIGEST.

### **Agenda:**

- 0-5 Introduction (Hutcheson)
- 5-15 DIGEST 101 (Hutcheson)
- 15-25 Implementation of DIGEST for videofluoroscopy (Hutcheson)
- 25-40 Adaptation for DIGEST-FEES (Starmer)
- 40-55 Training tips and reliability considerations (Barbon)
- 55-90 Live moderated participant Q&A with panelists (Hutcheson, Starmer, Barbon, Ebersole, Alvarez)

***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.

[Link to Post-Course Evaluation](#)

**Policies:** Please see home page

### **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 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.

**Heather Starmer, MA, CCC-SLP**

Ms. Starmer is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery at Stanford University and the Director of the Head and Neck Speech and Swallowing Rehabilitation Program at the Stanford Cancer Center. Heather is a Board Recognized Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. Her clinical and research interests include the rehabilitation of swallowing, communication, and lymphatic disorders following head and neck cancer treatment.

*Disclosures:* Ms. Starmer is employed by Stanford Medicine and receives a salary. She receives clinician-researcher grant support from ASH Foundation for development of DIGEST-FEES and Honorarium from MD Anderson for development of DIGEST-FEES training materials. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

**Dr. Carly Barbon**

Dr. Barbon is an Assistant Professor within the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

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

**Barbara Ebersole, MA, CCC-SLP**

Ms. Ebersole is a Manager of the Section of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Division of Head and Neck Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

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

**Clare Alvarez, MS, CCC-SLP**

Ms. Alvarez is a Speech-Language Pathologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

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