



**ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER**

**University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center**

Intermediate Level

.15 ASHA CEUs

Surgical Techniques to Optimize Total Laryngectomy Function

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 laryngectomy surgical technique to close the pharynx and neck and form the stoma. Functional implications on swallowing and alaryngeal voice production are discussed. The pipe versus pump swallowing framework is introduced and examined. Physical and functional properties of the vibratory segment for TE voice are reviewed. Cases are presented to highlight clinical decision making to optimize voice and swallowing after total laryngectomy.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe surgical considerations that impact functional outcomes post-TL.
2. Describe evaluation methods of pharyngoesophageal function to aid clinical decision making to optimize post TL swallowing.
3. Describe evaluation methods to aid clinical decision making to optimize post TL voicing.

Agenda:

- 0-5 Introduction (Hutcheson)
- 5-25 Surgical considerations in closing the pharynx and neck: A primer for the SLP (Goepfert)
- 25-40 Swallowing after laryngectomy: The pump and the pipe (Ebersole)
- 40-55 The vibratory segment for TE phonation (Richardson)
- 55-90 Cases presented with moderated Q&A with panelists (Hutcheson, Goepfert, Ebersole, Richardson, Hanasono, Hessel)

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, Ph.D.

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. Ryan Goepfert, MD

Dr. Goepfert is a Professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, Division of Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

Disclosures: Dr. Goepfert is employed by MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. He 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.

Casey Richardson, MS, CCC-SLP

Ms. Richardson began her career as a speech-language pathologist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2016 where she completed her fellowship training and continued as a senior speech language pathologist and Education Coordinator for the Section of Speech Pathology and Audiology from 2019-2023. She has facilitated the audiology and speech-language pathology graduate student and fellowship programs in addition to collaboratively developing MD Anderson education offerings both internally and externally under Dr. Katherine Hutcheson. She specializes in the treatment of patients with head and neck cancer with expertise in dysphagia evaluation/intervention and alaryngeal voice and pulmonary rehabilitation following total laryngectomy. She has had the opportunity to participate in clinical research with a focus on dysphagia and post-laryngectomy rehabilitation. Additionally, she has presented at local and national conferences and is a strong advocate for the laryngectomy community. Casey joined ATOS in May 2023 as a Clinical Educator.

Disclosures: Ms. Richardson is employed by ATOS and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Dr. Matthew Hanasono, MD

Dr. Hanasono is a Professor, Deputy Chair, and Fellowship Program Director in the Department of Plastic Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

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

Dr. Amy Hessel, MD

Dr. Hessel is a Professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery within the Division of Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

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