



# **DIGEST™**

Dynamic Image Grade of Swallowing Toxicity  
by Katherine A. Hutcheson, Ph.D.

## **Bios/Disclosures:**

### **Kate A Hutcheson, PhD**

#### **Biography:**

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:**

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 M. Starmer, MA CCC-SLP; BCS-S**

#### **Biography:**

Heather 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:**

Financial: ASHFoundation clinician-researcher grant support for development of DIGEST-FEES  
Honorarium from MD Anderson for development of training materials for DIGEST-FEES  
Salary received from Stanford University.

Non-Financial: Board member Dysphagia Research Society, American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders, Head and Neck Cancer Alliance, American Head and Neck Society.