



Consultants in Dysphagia Diagnosis and Management

Happy New Year

The Professional Imaging Review

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The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live."

-Morris Adler

Professional Imaging, LLC

Professional Imaging, LLC is a mobile medical practice that performs the dysphagia consultation including the modified barium swallow study. Professional Imaging, LLC began in March 2005 and by a physician, Dr. Joan E. Baumer and Speech Language Pathologist, Piper Harris. The practice was started due to a huge need for patients in the geriatric population to receive a timely consult regarding swallowing difficulties without having to transport by van or ambulance him/her to the hospital for this procedure as this is a difficult and time consuming process for most of our patients with Parkinsons, Alzhiemers, Dementia, Strokes, etc who are compromised by their disease and stamina and secondly to prepare a report that could give meaningful details of the patients pathology immediately to the providers to direct the patient's treatment plan. Swallowing is not only a life sustaining function but also a pleasurable part of life and a social event by sharing meals with family and friends. Professional Imaging, LLC treated approximately 88 patients in our first month of practice and is now treating approximately 1100 patients per month across the state of Texas.



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What is the purpose of doing an MBSS on a patient with suspected dysphagia? **for you experienced SLP's hopefully this can serve as a reference for any CFY's or students! **

First it is important to understand aspiration, there are 2 types:

1. Regular aspiration–food and liquids going into the lungs with coughing noted
2. Silent aspiration–food and liquids going into the lungs with no coughing, this is the MOST SERIOUS TYPE as it usually goes undetected until a patient is dehydrated/malnourished, having trouble breathing, has a pneumonia OR IS SUSPECTED BY A PROVIDER WITH A HIGH INDEX OF SUSPICION

As SLP's we know that most of our patients are having some aspiration as this occurrence increases with just the aging process, however we see patients that are not only aging but also have other disease processes.

The purpose of an MBSS is 3 fold, NOT SIMPLY A TEST FOR ASPIRATION!!!!!!:

1. Determine **if** a patient is aspirating and if it is silent or has a cough
2. Determine **when** the patient is aspirating
3. Determine **why** the patient is aspirating

Knowing why improves our ability to treat the underlying pathology of the swallowing function instead of guessing at which part of the swallowing function to treat. For instance if a patient is aspirating:

1. **Before** the swallow–this is a lingual control and swallowing delay issue
2. **During** the swallow–this is always a laryngeal elevation/movement forward issue
3. **After** the swallow–this is always from residue and knowing where that residue is located is also important for treatment purposes.



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Also knowing if a patient has any changes in their anterior cervical spine that may be causing structural changes in the shape of the throat, i.e. osteophytes, subluxation causing swelling, etc. If you are treating the swallow function and this is a structural issue that is never going to respond to the type of treatment you are giving, you have not helped that patient. Also, if there is a problem in the esophagus that is causing symptoms of dysphagia, such as a narrowing/stricture, severe reflux, you need to diagnose in order to differentiate the treatment. We as SLP's do not treat the esophageal phase but need to understand the important relationship between the two phases, pharyngeal and esophageal. If it was your FAMILY MEMBER and we are EVALUATING their PO INTAKE, would you like a therapist to guess at the best treatment and diet or to **know** what is the best course of action for swallowing safely.

2009 Upcoming Conferences–First Half of the Year

February 28, 2009

Deciphering Dysphagia with Estim in San Antonio, Texas, 7.5 CEU's, call 1-866-675-6277 to reserve a seat.

March 7th, 2009

Reading the MBSS for Practical Application in the Long Term Care Setting, in McAllen, Texas, 3.0 CEU's, Call 1-866-676-6277 to reserve a seat

March 28th, 2009

Deciphering Dysphagia with Estim in Houston, Texas, 7.5 CEU's, Call 1-866-675-6277 to reserve a seat.

May 30th, 2009

Strategize with Strategies in Austin, Texas, 4.0 CEUS, Call 1-866-675-6277 to reserve a seat.

***All Conferences are limited seating, please register early to ensure a seat, a conference flier will be mailed out in the upcoming newsletters as well as posted on the website at MBSSONLINE.COM . We hope to see you all there. Education is Key!