Dysphagia Treatment in Individuals With Head and Neck Cancer

INTRODUCTION

Dysphagia is multifactorial in head and neck cancer survivors, with tumor type, comorbid conditions, and specific treatment (e.g., surgery, radiotherapy, systemic treatments) contributing to the dysphagia presentation. This session reviews common issues – including soft tissue fibrosis, lymphedema, and neuropathy – as they relate to cancer treatments and swallowing function. The session proposes an algorithm to provide standard yet personalized management of dysphagia considering diverse treatment scenarios along the continuum of survivorship, from proactive models of pre-habilitation to management of late effects in long-term survivors.

This course is a recorded session from the 2019 online conference “Cancer Care: Enhancing Communication, Swallowing, and Quality of Life.”

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- distinguish soft tissue fibrosis, edema, and denervation as contributing factors to dysphagia in head and neck cancer
- describe an evidence-based model of pre-habilitation or proactive swallow therapy for patients with head and neck cancer and define target population for proactive therapy
- describe an evidence-based model for reactive swallowing therapy and define target population for reactive therapy

PROGRAM HISTORY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Recording length: 90 minutes
Online conference dates: March 20–April 1, 2019; August 7–19, 2019
End date: March 20, 2024

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the learning assessment on or before March 20, 2024.

This course is offered for 0.15 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).