



Risky Breathing: Ethical Considerations for Managing Respiratory Fragility and Oral Intake

Authors: Amanda Fazakerly, University of California Davis Health
Rejane Wittmann, University of California Davis Health

Instructional Level: Intermediate

11:00 AM-12:30 PM Thursday, March 24, 2022

Session Description

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for clarity in the management of patients with respiratory compromise. These patients may require respiratory support ranging from conventional oxygen therapy to mechanical ventilation. Initiating respiratory support is usually driven by urgent medical necessity, with the aim of sustaining life. However, the utilization of life-sustaining respiratory support carries a multitude of risks. Chief among these risks is potential oropharyngeal dysphagia, resulting in the restriction or prohibition of oral intake. How do varying degrees of respiratory support affect swallow (dys)function? When acceptable risk ceilings diverge between clinicians and/or patients, how can the provider reconcile the seemingly juxtaposed goals of sustaining life (respiratory support) and preserving (swallow) function? We will revisit the symbiotic relationship between swallowing and respiration and explore these questions through a review of the literature, survey of current practice patterns, and a collaborative query of selected case studies.

Speaker Bio: Amanda earned a M.S. in Speech Pathology from Columbia University and a B.S. in Human Development from UC Davis. Prior to joining the PMR acute rehab team, she specialized in voice, upper airway, and swallowing disorders in the Department of Otolaryngology at UCD Health for three years. Rejane is a seasoned medical speech pathologist at UC Davis with over 10 years of experience. Clinical expertise in the management of patients with swallowing disorders. She is pursuing board certification in swallowing. She currently serves acutely ill patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) including patients who are tracheostomy/ventilator dependent.

Speaker Disclosures

Amanda Fazakerly, University of California Davis Health

Financial Disclosures: Amanda Fazakerly has no relevant financial disclosures.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Amanda Fazakerly has no relevant non-financial disclosures.

Rejane Wittmann, University of California Davis Health

Financial Disclosures: Rejane Wittmann has no relevant financial disclosures.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Rejane Wittmann has no relevant non-financial disclosures.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Describe principles of respiration and differentiate impact on swallow kinematics across the spectrum of support modalities
- Summarize strategies for improving functional (swallow) outcomes in collaboration with allied disciplines
- Define the role of SLPs in ethical management of risk in the treatment of dysphagic patients in respiratory compromise

This session is being offered for 1.5 SLP AHADB Credits and .15 ASHA CEUs



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

California
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association