Swallowing Awareness Day

Dysphagia: A difficult diagnosis to swallow

Dysphagia is the medical term for swallowing difficulties. Some people with dysphagia have problems swallowing certain foods or liquids, while others can’t swallow at all.

Signs and symptoms of dysphagia

- Takes a long time to chew
- Food getting stuck in the throat
- Changes in voice, including nasal or ‘wet’ speech
- Difficulty chewing or controlling food in the mouth
- Coughing or choking when swallowing
- Changes in eating habits, for example eating slowly or avoiding meals altogether
- Significant, unintended weight loss
- Recurrent chest infections or pneumonia
- Food in the nose
- General weakness, a noticeable change in mental status and the overall effects of losing strength

For more information, visit www.rcslt.org