



2 years of the RCSLT/NIHR Dysphagia Research Priorities

Gemma Clunie



Relevant to research priorities
General #3 and Adult #8

Gemma is currently running a project looking at voice and swallowing concerns and outcomes of adults with airway stenosis who undergo reconstructive surgery. She has completed focus groups and patient interviews to investigate the patient experience of living with airway stenosis. Gemma will also be performing an observational study where patients complete a range of swallowing and voice outcome measures pre and post-surgery. The results of both studies will help to design a care pathway for airway stenosis patients that is individualised and robust.

Find out more: www.rcslt.org

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Lee Bolton



Relevant to research priorities
Adult #4

Lee's research is looking at Swallowing in acute exacerbation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). This involves developing and testing the feasibility of a methodological framework to evaluate the role of dysphagia in acute exacerbation of COPD.

By understanding and identifying which people with AECOPD are at most risk of aspiration, Lee hopes that this may in future lead to the development of specific screening methods and targeted interventions that reduce hospital admissions and length of stay, and improve clinical and quality of life outcomes.



Find out more: www.rcslt.org

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Elizabeth Whitehead



Relevant to research priorities
General #5 and Adult #10

Elizabeth is performing an exploratory study into healthcare professional's perceptions of using flavoured foam with adults who have dysphagia. This project aims to explore current perceptions and experiences of using flavoured foam with dysphagic adults through a series of interviews with healthcare professionals. Elizabeth hopes that the results will inform future research in this area and will give a better understanding of the use of flavoured foam with adults who have dysphagia.



Find out more: www.rcslt.org
Email: elizabeth.whitehead@cntw.nhs.uk



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Razvana Shah



Relevant to general and adult research priorities

Razvana is doing research asking: *"Will respiratory examination skills for senior dysphagia trained Speech & Language Therapists increase confidence levels in their dysphagia practice with aspirating and high risk of aspirating dysphagic patients?"*

This research involves onauguration of an educational and training programme to equip senior SLTs with respiratory examination and diagnosis skills. Ravana hopes that this will be a natural extension of the swallow assessment and part of the continuum that compliments dysphagia practice.



Find out more: www.rcslt.org
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Suzanne Slade & Fiona Robinson



Relevant to research priorities
Adult #8



Suzanne and Fiona looked at the use of '*Respiratory Muscle Strength Training*' for speech and language therapists. One day workshops were held across three venues in London, Birmingham and Cardiff and practical sessions were given to SLTs to learn to how to use the device and how to implement RMST programme with their patients. Feedback was taken after the training and it has shown to inspire SLTs to trial and evaluate RMST in their clinical practice.

Find out more: www.svsassociates.co.uk
Email: info@svsassociates.co.uk Twitter: [@_SVS_Associates](https://twitter.com/_SVS_Associates)