

Dysphagia: Top 10 general, non-age group specific research priorities

1. Do people with dysphagia and/or their families/carers carry out recommendations to improve the safety/effectiveness of swallowing at meal times? What strategies are effective to improve compliance with recommendations for postural changes?
2. What is the impact of thickening fluids on the physiology and wellbeing of (a) children and (b) adults with dysphagia?
3. What is the impact of reflux on swallowing function and health outcomes (including pneumonia) for children and adults who have dysphagia?
4. Are caregivers aware of how to identify eating/drinking difficulties and the potential risks and consequences of dysphagia?
5. Does oral sensory stimulation improve health and wellbeing outcomes of children and adults with dysphagia?
6. Are postural changes (e.g. different positions) effective in improving swallowing function and safety in (a) adults and (b) children with dysphagia?
7. What is the impact of shared-decision making (patient, carer and health professionals) for the modification of food textures and fluids on health and wellbeing outcomes when compared with decisions made by health professionals alone?
8. Does the use of (a) Fibreoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES) and (b) videofluoroscopy improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children and adults with dysphagia?
9. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of nasogastric feeding compared to usual care in people with dysphagia to improve swallowing and quality of life?
10. What are the reported psychosocial effects of (a) nasogastric and (b) gastrostomy feeding in children and adults who are tube fed?