

Dysphagia:

Top 10 paediatric research priorities

1. Are oro-motor therapy techniques effective and cost-effective in improving eating and drinking and health outcomes for children and young people with non-progressive neurological conditions?
2. Does cervical auscultation (listening to the sounds that accompany swallowing using a stethoscope placed on the neck) improve (a) identification of swallowing difficulties in children, and (b) carer's understanding of children's swallowing when they listen to the auditory feedback whilst their child is swallowing?
3. What is the most effective way to manage the transition from tube feeding to oral feeding in terms of health and wellbeing outcomes in premature infants?
4. What is the psychosocial impact of tube feeding on (a) the carers of premature infants and (b) the bond between carers and premature infants who are tube fed?
5. Is cutting tongue tie effective and cost-effective in terms of feeding outcomes in infants with tongue tie?
6. Is graded exposure effective and cost-effective in improving health and wellbeing outcomes for children with behavioural and/or sensory feeding difficulties?
7. Is feeding via a gastrostomy tube effective in improving health and wellbeing outcomes of (a) children with neurological conditions and dysphagia and (b) parents of children with neuro-disability and dysphagia?
8. What is the typical pattern of development of breastfeeding in premature babies?
9. What is effectiveness of the Neonatal Oral-Motor Assessment Scale (NOMAS) in identifying and managing sucking difficulties in infants?
10. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of speech and language therapists training to improve outcomes for children with cleft palate and eating and drinking difficulties?