



TITLE: Assessment of Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing: Guidelines

DATE: 24 August 2016

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the evidence-based guidelines for the assessment of feeding and swallowing (dysphagia) in children with complex feeding and swallowing needs?

KEY FINDINGS

One systematic review was identified regarding guidelines for the assessment of pediatric feeding and swallowing.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2011 and August 16, 2016. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

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Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Children (0 to 18) with complex feeding and swallowing needs – e.g. cerebral palsy; brain injury with gastrointestinal involvement; cleft lip/palate; other complex neuromotor conditions.
Intervention	Any kind of assessment of swallowing (e.g., fiber-optic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing [FEES]), videofluoroscopy (VFSS; also referred to as modified barium swallow exam [MBS])
Comparator	No comparator, or compare one method to another
Outcomes	Guidelines
Study Designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, guidelines

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by evidence-based guidelines.

One systematic review was identified regarding the assessment of pediatric feeding and swallowing. No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One systematic review was identified regarding the assessment of pediatric feeding and swallowing. The study examined non-instrumental swallowing and feeding assessments in pediatric patients. Authors found significant variability among the different kinds of non-instrumental assessments available to use to diagnose dysphagia, however, no detail regarding assessment type was presented in the abstract. The study cautions that there is limited evidence on the validity and reliability of these non-instrumental measurements.

No relevant evidence-based guidelines regarding the assessment of pediatric feeding and swallowing were identified.

REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments

No literature found.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

1. Heckathorn DE, Speyer R, Taylor J, Cordier R. Systematic Review: Non-Instrumental Swallowing and Feeding Assessments in Pediatrics. *Dysphagia*. 2016 Feb;31(1):1-23. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00455-015-9667-5>

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature found.

PREPARED BY:

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

Tel: 1-866-898-8439

www.cadth.ca

APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Systematic Reviews – Diagnostic Accuracy

2. Calvo I, Conway A, Henriques F, Walshe M. Diagnostic accuracy of the clinical feeding evaluation in detecting aspiration in children: a systematic review. *Dev Med Child Neurol.* 2016 Jun;58(6):541-53.
[PubMed: PM26862075](#)
3. Lagarde ML, Kamalski DM, van den Engel-Hoek L. The reliability and validity of cervical auscultation in the diagnosis of dysphagia: a systematic review. *Clin Rehabil.* 2016 Feb;30(2):199-207.
[PubMed: PM25792689](#)
4. Myer CM, Howell RJ, Cohen AP, Willging JP, Ishman SL. A Systematic Review of Patient- or Proxy-Reported Validated Instruments Assessing Pediatric Dysphagia. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2016 May;154(5):817-23.
[PubMed: PM27048665](#)

Systematic Review – Population Unspecified

5. Etges CL, Scheeren B, Gomes E, Barbosa LR. Screening tools for dysphagia: a systematic review. *Codas [Internet].* 2014 Sep [cited 2016 Aug 23];26(5):343-9. Available from: <http://www.scielo.br/pdf/codas/v26n5/2317-1782-codas-26-05-0343.pdf>

Evidence-Based Guidelines – Population Unspecified

6. National Guideline Clearinghouse. Guideline summary: The role of endoscopy in the evaluation and management of dysphagia. In: National Guideline Clearinghouse [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2006 May; Revised 2014 [cited 2016 Aug 23]. Available from: <https://www.guideline.gov/summaries/summary/47786/the-role-of-endoscopy-in-the-evaluation-and-management-of-dysphagia>
7. National Guideline Clearinghouse. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® dysphagia. In: National Guideline Clearinghouse [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 1998; Revised 2013 [cited 2016 Aug 23]. Available from: <https://www.guideline.gov/summaries/summary/47651/acr-appropriateness-criteria--dysphagia>

Previous CADTH Reports

8. CADTH. Three-ounce water swallow challenge for oropharyngeal dysphagia: diagnostic accuracy and guidelines [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2016 Apr 4. [cited 2016 Aug 23]. (Rapid response report: summary of abstracts). Available from: <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/apr-2016/RB0977%20Water%20Swallow%20Challenge%20Final.pdf>

9. CADTH. Fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing for pediatric patients with dysphagia: clinical effectiveness [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2015 Nov 12. [cited 2016 Aug 23]. (Rapid response report: summary of abstracts). Available from: <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/nov-2015/RB0931%20FEES%20for%20Evaluation%20of%20Swallowing%20Disorders%20Final.pdf>