

## Impact of swallowing therapy on aspiration rate following treatment for locally advanced head and neck cancer

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**Summary** This study examines the efficacy of swallowing therapy in cancer-free patients who developed aspiration following treatment for locally advanced head and neck cancer. The records of 41 patients who underwent swallowing therapy for aspiration were reviewed. All patients were cancer free at a median follow-up of 25 months (6–150 months). Their treatment were respectively chemoradiation (24), and postoperative radiation (17). All patients had two or more modified barium swallow (MBS). Dysphagia severity was graded from 1 to 7. Dysphagia grade was compared before and following swallowing therapy. Before swallowing therapy, there were 16 grade 5 (trace aspiration), and 25 grade 6–7 (severe aspiration). In the chemoradiation group, there were nine grade 5, five grade 6, and 10 grade 7. Corresponding numbers