Identification of Swallowing Patterns Associated with Dysphagia

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Abstract: The present project was designed to allow graduate students to observe swallowing patterns (both normal and disordered) through the World Wide Web. This web site utilized QuickTime technology to present these video segments as actual video segments. This web site deals with the diagnosis of disordered swallowing patterns commonly produced by dysphagic individuals. Students in communication disorders must evaluate swallowing disorders and determine their relationship to the anatomy and physiology of the swallowing mechanism. In order to perform this role successfully, the student must be skilled in evaluating the interpreting radiographic studies of patients with swallowing disorders. The student must learn to be a reliable observer and to recognize, describe, and interpret evidence of anatomical and physiological conditions that are provided by the swallowing patterns. As the student learns about the different swallowing patterns, it is helpful to have visual tutorials that supplement classroom presentations in order train students to become proficient observers in determining the presence of specific swallowing problems.