

Pharyngeal Phase Swallowing Disorders

Definition:

It is the inability to swallow of food and liquids through the pharynx and there may be a residual of food and liquids after the swallow, which might lead to airway penetration.

Causes of Pharyngeal Swallowing Disorders: (1)

- * Delayed pharyngeal swallow
- * Reduced Velopharyngeal Closure:
- * Decreased Base of tongue Movement:
- * Decreased Pharyngeal wall Contraction (Unilateral or Bilaterally)
- * Decreased anterior movement of posterior pharyngeal wall
- * Decreased Laryngeal Closure:
- * Decreased Laryngeal elevation
- * Decreased Arytenoid tipping
- * Cricopharyngeal Dysfunction:
- * Cervical Osteophytes
- * Scar tissues; Pharyngeal Pouch:
- * Pesudoepiglottis

The posterior-anterior view provides information to assess the unilateral nature of any pharyngeal swallowing disorders.

1- Unilateral Dysfunction in Posterior Movement of the Tongue Base:

- * It leads to unilateral valleculae residue.

2- Unilateral Dysfunction of Pharynx:

- * It leads to unilateral pyriform sinus residue after the swallow.

3- Vocal fold disorders:

- * The posterior-anterior view assesses the vocal fold adduction and abduction movement because reduction in vocal fold movement leads aspiration during the swallow.
- * The posterior-anterior view assesses the symmetrical height of the vocal folds.

Approach Pharyngeal Swallowing Disorders:

General symptoms:

- 1- Coughing during or after the swallow
- 2- Choking on food or liquid is a common complaint frequently as a result of poor timing (1).
- 3- Hoarseness or a "wet" or "gurgly" vocal quality after swallowing
- 4- Sensation of stuck food in the throat.
- 5- A lump-in-the-throat sensation
- 6- Pain during swallowing.
- 7- Drooling
- 8- Nasal regurgitation of food or liquid
- 9- Unexplained weight loss
- 10- Patients may have sign and symptoms of aspiration pneumonia

Works Cited

1. **Wijting, Y. and Freed, M.** VitalStim therapy training manual. Gulf Breeze, FL, USA : Career Improvement & Advancement Opportunilics (CIAO), 2006.
2. **Logemann, J.A.** Disorders of deglutition. *Evaluation and treatment of swallowing disorders*. 2nd. Austin : Pro.ed, 1998, pp. 71-131.