Pediatric Dysphagia Evaluation and Management in the Inpatient Setting

Evaluation and management of dysphagia in pediatric acute and critical care requires a strong understanding of the typical development of feeding and swallowing. When normal developmental milestones are interrupted by a traumatic or non-traumatic event, there may be short-term and long-term consequences. This course offers considerations and practical strategies for maximizing habilitation and rehabilitation of feeding and swallowing in the inpatient setting.

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Shaunda Harendt is a speech-language pathologist with more than 15 years of experience in medical speech-language pathology. She obtained her Board Certification in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S) in 2016. In addition to her inpatient and multidisciplinary clinic work at Children's Hospital Colorado, she also runs a private practice, Tracheology Speech-Language Pathology. She specializes in providing communication and swallowing services to infants, children, and young adults with tracheostomy and ventilator dependence.

Disclosures:
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Learning Objectives:

- Identify specific considerations for dysphagia evaluation and management in pediatric acute and critical care.
- Describe potential consequences arising from the interruption of typical feeding and swallowing development.
- Identify factors to consider in determining the timing of initial and repeat instrumental evaluations of swallowing.
- List developmentally appropriate intervention strategies for feeding and swallowing rehabilitation in young children.

Agenda:
Intro - 2 min
Discussion of pediatric dysphagia etiologies - 8 min
Typical feeding/swallowing development - 5 min
Considerations for dysphagia assessment - 10 min
Habilitation vs rehabilitation - 5 min
Case study 1 - 10 min
Case study 2 - 10 min
Conclusions - 10 min