

REHABILITATION

Treating Dysphagia with VitalStim Therapy

Dysphagia:

- occurs when there is a problem with any part of the swallowing process—from the mouth to the stomach.
- affects as many as 15-million Americans.
- will develop in 1 in 17 people at some point in their life, including:
 - 50% to 75% of stroke patients.
 - 60% to 70% of patients who undergo radiation therapy for head and neck cancer.
 - up to 90% of Parkinson's and ALS patients.
- is especially prevalent in the elderly, with studies suggesting that up to 75-percent of nursing home residents have some degree of the disorder.



Tiffany Baker, speech and language therapist, has extensive training and is certified in VitalStim Therapy.

VitalStim Therapy:

- is a specialized form of neuro-muscular electrical stimulation (NMES) designed to treat dysphagia.
- is the only NMES device cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- can help patients see dramatic improvement in six to 20 sessions - some in as little as three sessions.
- is a non-invasive external therapy that helps re-educate the throat muscles needed for swallowing.

Call Merle Miller, Extension 310

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