Component 1 - Lip Closure

What: How the lips close to keep food/liquid in the front of your mouth.

Problem: If food/liquid falls out of your mouth before it is swallowed, you may not be able to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. This can also be embarrassing when eating in public.

Component 2 - Tongue Control/Bolus Hold

What: How you hold and food/liquid in your mouth with your tongue before you swallow it.

Problem: If food/liquid falls to the sides or bottom of your mouth before you swallow, it can make it difficult to control the food/liquid as it enters your throat when you can swallow. Also, if food/liquid goes into your throat before you are ready to swallow, it can cause you to choke.

Component 3 - Mastication

What: How you chew (masticate) your food.

Problem: If you are unable to chew your food well, it can be difficult to eat hard foods. This may cause you to have food leftover in your mouth or even choke. Sometimes patients need to change their diet to include softer foods when they have difficulty chewing.



Component 4 – Bolus Transport/Lingual Motion

What: How you use your tongue to move food/liquid from the front of your mouth to the back of your mouth.

Problem: If your tongue doesn't move well, you may not be able to eat/drink enough to remain healthy. Also, if food/liquid goes into your throat before you are ready to swallow, it can cause you to choke.



Component 5 – Oral Residue

What: How much food/liquid is left in your mouth after you swallow.

Problem: If too much food remains in your mouth after you swallow, you may not be able to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. This material could also fall from your mouth into your throat.

Component 6 – Initiation of Pharyngeal Swallow

What: How soon you begin to protect your airway and move foods/liquids through your throat when you swallow.

Problem: If you do not protect your airway when you swallow, food/liquid can also get into your lungs (aspiration) and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.

Component 7 – Soft Palate Elevation

What: How you shut off the opening to the back of your nose when you swallow.

Problem: If the opening to the back of your nose is not shut, you may have food/liquid come out of your nose when you swallow. This can also be uncomfortable and embarrassing when eating in public.



Component 8 – Laryngeal Elevation

What: How you move your voice box (larynx) up to close your airway when you swallow.

Problem: If you have trouble moving your voice box to help close your airway when you swallow, it makes it hard to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. Food/liquid can also get into your lungs (aspiration)and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.





Component 9 – Anterior Hyoid Excursion

What: The hyoid bone is attached to muscles that move your voice box (larynx) forward and help close your airway and help pull open your swallowing tube (esophagus).

Problem: If you have trouble moving your voice box to help close your airway when you swallow, it makes it hard to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. Food/liquid can also get into your lungs (aspiration) and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.



Component 10 – Epiglottic Inversion

What: The epiglottis is a flap in your throat that folds down to help protect your airway when you swallow.

Problem: If your epiglottis does not flip down to protect your airway, food/liquid can get into your lungs (aspiration) and make you very sick. Sometimes food can stick in your throat if your epiglottis does not flip downward.

Component 11 – Laryngeal Vestibular Closure

What: How you close your voicebox and your breathing tube (airway) below when you swallow.

Problem: If you are unable to completely close your voiceboxand breathing tube when you swallow, food/liquid can get into your lungs (aspiration) and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.



Component 12 – Pharyngeal Stripping Wave

What: How the muscles in your throat squeeze to help push food/liquid down and into your swallowing tube (esophagus).

Problem: If the muscles in the back of your throat do not squeeze strongly enough to push food/liquid through your throat and into your swallowing tube, food/liquid can stick behind in your throat. This can make it hard to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. This can also result in food/liquid entering your lungs (aspiration) and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.



Component 13 – Pharyngeal Contraction

What: How the muscles in your throat shorten and squeeze to help push food/liquid down and into your swallowing tube (esophagus).

Problem: If your throat is not strong enough to help push food/liquid into your swallowing tube (esophagus), food/liquid can stick in your throat. This can make it hard to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. This can also result in food/liquid entering your lungs (aspiration) and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.

Component 14 – Pharyngoesophageal Segment Opening

What: How wide the top of your swallowing tube (esophagus) opens.

Problem: If you can't open the top of your swallowing tube, food/liquid may stick in your throat. This can make it hard to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. This can also result in food/liquid entering your lungs (aspiration) and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.

Component 15 – Tongue Base Retraction

What: How far the part of your tongue that is in your throat moves back to meet your throat to help push food into your swallowing tube (esophagus).

Problem: If the back part of your tongue doesn't move back enough to touch the muscles of your throat, food/liquid may stick in your throat. This can make it hard to eat/drink enough to stay healthy. This can also result in food/liquid entering your lungs and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.

Component 16 – Pharyngeal Residue

What: Food/liquid left behind or sticking in your throat after you swallow.

Problem: If food/liquid is left behind in your throat after you swallow, you may have a hard time eating/drinking enough to stay healthy. This can also result in food/liquid entering your lungs and lead to breathing problems, choking or pneumonia.

Component 17 – Esophageal Clearance

What: How your swallowing tube (esophagus) carries the food from your throat to your stomach.

Problem: Problems with your swallowing tube can change the way you swallow and food can stick in the tube or come back up to your throat. This can keep you from eating/drinking enough to stay healthy.







