

# Professional Imaging

JUNE 2009

## review

## Upcoming Conferences

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### Saturday, August 1, 2009

#### Deciphering Dysphagia with Estim

Using electrical stimulation for neuromuscular re-education in patients with dysphagia. **McAllen, Texas. 7.5 CEUs. Limited seating, first come first serve basis, sign up ASAP! See enclosed flier for additional info or visit us online at [mbsonline.com](http://mbsonline.com) to view upcoming conference fliers.**

#### In the Works

We are continuing to work on a conference for **ETHICS** which will be offered in every region before the end of the year. Please continue to look for updates on our website at [mbsonline.com](http://mbsonline.com) and upcoming newsletters for conference dates in your region.

### COPD, CHF and Dysphagia: Causes of aspiration pneumonia

Difficulty breathing in patients that have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Congestive Heart Failure can lead to reduced oxygen saturation levels leading to poor coordination of breathing and swallowing.

Since the swallowing function operates by the airway closing and breathing stopping as the swallow takes place, this can cause a patient to be at greater risk for aspiration due to the patient needing to take a breath during the actual pharyngeal swallow. If inhalation occurs while the bolus is passing the airway, aspiration can be the result as well as asphyxiation if solids are not well chewed. Current research shows an increase in occurrences of aspiration pneumonia, as well as in patients who have moderate to severe COPD.

Another issue among patients with COPD and CHF is not being able to eat efficiently due to needing to stop and "catch their breath." This is caused by quick fatiguing of the oral/pharyngeal musculature due to reduced O<sub>2</sub> saturation over the course of the day.

In patients with these diagnoses, it is important to monitor their O<sub>2</sub> sats while eating and drinking. Consider smaller more frequent opportunities to eat and monitoring weight closely. A dietary consultation may be helpful for calorie packing and maintaining nutrition and hydration.



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