



**ASHA**  
 American  
 Speech-Language-Hearing  
 Association

**Pediatric Videofluoroscopic Swallow Study (VFSS)**

- Name: ID/Medical record number:
- Date of exam: Chronological age:
- Primary language of patient: Gestational age:
- Primary caregiver: Corrected/adjusted age:
- Primary language of caregiver: Family concerns:
- Interpreter?  Yes  No Barriers to learning:
- Referred by:
- Reason for referral:
- Related medical diagnoses and dates of onset:

| Medical Diagnosis | ICD-10 | Date of Onset |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|
|                   |        |               |
|                   |        |               |
|                   |        |               |
|                   |        |               |
|                   |        |               |

- Other relevant medical/surgical history:
- Current medications:
- Allergies:
- Pain:
- Educational history:
  - Current respiratory status
    - Room air  Nasal cannula
    - CPAP  Tracheostomy (trach collar)
    - Mechanical ventilation  Use of Passy Muir speaking valve
- Tracheostomy:
- Mechanical ventilation:
- Symptoms reported by patient/caregiver: (Check all that apply.)
  - Coughing  History of poor weight gain
  - Choking  History of dehydration
  - Difficulty swallowing:
    - Foods

*Templates are consensus-based and are provided as a resource for members of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Information included in these templates does not represent official ASHA policy.*

- Drinks
- Pills and/or liquid and chewable meds: (Specify.)
- Other
- Current diet: (Check all that apply.)  
 NPO?  Yes  No  
 If yes, alternative nutrition method:
  - Nasogastric tube
  - Gastrostomy
  - Jejunostomy
  - Total parenteral nutrition (TPN)
- PO:  Primary source of nutrition  Pleasure feeds only

**Current Diet** (based on the [International Dysphagia Diet Standardization initiative \[IDDSI\]](#))

| Food consistency              | Drink consistency          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Regular (Level 7)             | Extremely Thick (Level 4)  |
| Easy to Chew (Level 7)        | Moderately Thick (Level 3) |
| Soft and Bite-sized (Level 6) | Mildly Thick (Level 2)     |
| Minced and Moist (Level 5)    | Slightly Thick (Level 1)   |
| Pureed (Level 4)              | Thin (Level 0)             |
| Liquidised (Level 3)          |                            |

- **Feeding Method:**  Independent in self-feeding  Needs some assistance  
 Dependent in self-feeding
- **Endurance During Meals:**  Good  Fair  Poor  Variable
- **Mental Status: (Check all that apply.)**
  - Alert
  - Responsive
  - Cooperative
  - Confused
  - Lethargic
  - Impulsive
  - Uncooperative
  - Combative
  - Unresponsive
- **Mobility Status**
  - Ambulatory  Wheelchair  Assistive device
- **Birth History**
  - Complications during pregnancy: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Delivery:
    - Vaginal  C-section (Reason):  Single birth  Multiple births:
    - Complications during delivery:
    - Term  Preterm (weeks/days):  NICU:

Birth weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Intubation history: \_\_\_\_\_

APGAR SCORES: @ 1m: \_\_\_\_\_ @5m: \_\_\_\_\_ @10m: \_\_\_\_\_

• **Swallowing/Feeding and Nutrition History** (description of skills and age of acquisition of skill)

Breast feeding: \_\_\_\_\_  Bottle feeding: \_\_\_\_\_

Spoon (caregiver): \_\_\_\_\_  Fingers (self) \_\_\_\_\_

No spill cup: \_\_\_\_\_  Straw: \_\_\_\_\_

Utensils (self): \_\_\_\_\_  Open cup: \_\_\_\_\_

Puree: \_\_\_\_\_  Solids: \_\_\_\_\_

Weaned from breast/bottle: \_\_\_\_\_

Pacifier use/when weaned from pacifier: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information, including ages of transition: \_\_\_\_\_

History of feeding tube line: \_\_\_\_\_

• **Sensory status:**

○ Hearing status: \_\_\_\_\_

○ Vision status: \_\_\_\_\_

○ Testing of mechano-sensation of face and oral cavity

○ Testing of chemo-sensation (i.e., taste and smell)

○ Assessment of laryngeal sensations (dryness, tickling, burning, pain, etc.) and palpation of extrinsic laryngeal musculature, as indicated

• **Results of recent clinical bedside assessment of swallowing:**

• **Results of recent instrumental assessments of swallowing:**

• **Viewing planes:**  Lateral  A-P

• **Contrast:**  Standardized  Nonstandardized

• **Baseline Vitals:**

Heart rate \_\_\_\_\_ Respiratory rate: \_\_\_\_\_ O<sub>2</sub> sats: \_\_\_\_\_

• **Patient positioning for study:**

• **Liquid Trials**

|   | <b>Thin (Level 0)</b>   | <b>Slightly Thick (Level 1)</b>   | <b>Mildly Thick (Level 2)</b>   | <b>Moderately Thick (Level 3)</b>   | <b>Extremely Thick (Level 4)</b>  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administered by (Check All That Apply.) | Cup<br>Spoon<br>Straw<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner<br>Bottle (nipple type): _____ | Cup<br>Spoon<br>Straw<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner<br>Bottle (nipple type): _____ | Cup<br>Spoon<br>Straw<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner<br>Bottle (nipple type): _____ | Cup<br>Spoon<br>Straw<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner<br>Bottle (nipple type): _____ | Cup<br>Spoon<br>Straw<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner<br>Bottle (nipple type): _____ |
| Amounts /Duration:                      | _____ ml in _____ mins  | _____ ml in _____ mins  | _____ ml in _____ mins  | _____ ml in _____ mins  | _____ ml in _____ mins  |
| Sucks / Burst                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Fluid Expression                        | Good<br>Fair<br>Poor  | Good<br>Fair<br>Poor  | Good<br>Fair<br>Poor  | Good<br>Fair<br>Poor  | Good<br>Fair<br>Poor  |
| Anterior Loss                           | Present<br>Not present  | Present<br>Not present  | Present<br>Not present  | Present<br>Not present  | Present<br>Not present  |
| Jaw Movement                            | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  |
| Tongue Movement                         | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated  |
| Swallow Initiation                      | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent                    | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent                    | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent                    | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent                    | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent                    |
| Volitional Cough During Trials?         | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  |
| Volitional Throat Clear During Trials?  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  |
| Spontaneous Cough During Trials?        | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  |
| Spontaneous Throat Clear During Trials? | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  | Yes/no  |

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Swallowing Duration<br>(Introduction of Bolus to Completion of Pharyngeal Stage) | ___ sec.  | ___ sec.  | ___ sec.  | ___ sec.  | ___ sec.  |
| Penetration  | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         |
| Aspiration   | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow         |
| Residue  | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx |
| Therapeutic Management Strategies Attempted and Response                         |   |   |   |   |   |

- **Food trials**

|  | <b>Regular (Level 7)</b>                  | <b>Easy to Chew (Level 7)</b>             | <b>Soft and Bite-sized (Level 6)</b>      | <b>Minced and Moist (Level 5)</b>         | <b>Pureed (Level 4)</b>                   | <b>Liquidised (Level 3)</b>               |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administered by (Check all that apply) | Spoon/fork<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner | Spoon/fork<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner | Spoon/fork<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner | Spoon/fork<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner | Spoon/fork<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner | Spoon/fork<br>Self-fed<br>Fed by examiner |
| Amounts:                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Jaw Movement                           | Coordinate<br>Uncoordinate                | Coordinate<br>Uncoordinate                | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinate               | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinate               | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinate               | Jaw Movement                              |

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Tongue mvt  | Coordinate<br>Uncoordinated                                      | Coordinate<br>Uncoordinated                                      | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated                                     | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated                                     | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated                                     | Coordinated<br>Uncoordinated                                     |
| Swallow Initiation  | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent | Prompt<br>Mild delay<br>Moderate delay<br>Severe delay<br>Absent |
| Volitional cough during trials?   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   |
| Volitional throat clear during trials?  | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   |
| Spontaneous cough during trials?  | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   |
| Spontaneous throat clear during trials?                                       | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   | yes/no   |
| Swallowing duration (introduction of bolus to completion of pharyngeal stage) | ___ sec.   | ___ sec.   | ___ sec.   | ___ sec.   | ___ sec.   | ___ sec.   |
| Penetration   | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow        | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow        | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow        | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow        | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow        | None<br>Before swallow<br>During swallow<br>After swallow        |
| Aspiration  | None<br>Before swallow   | None<br>Before swallow   | None<br>Before swallow   | None<br>Before swallow   | None<br>Before swallow   | None<br>Before swallow   |

|  | During swallow<br>After swallow                                   | During swallow<br>After swallow                                   | During swallow<br>After swallow                                   | During swallow<br>After swallow                                   | During swallow<br>After swallow                                   | During swallow<br>After swallow                                   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residue  | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx | Oral<br>Vallecula<br>Pyriforms<br>Base of tongue<br>Post. pharynx |
| Therapeutic management strategies attempted and response |   |   |   |   |   |   |

- **Endurance:** Total volume of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ signs of stress
- **Naso-Pharyngeal Backflow?**  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_
- **Esophageal Phase:**  
Backflow observed?  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_  
Other observations: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Post-Assessment Vitals:**  
Heart rate \_\_\_\_\_ Respiratory rate: \_\_\_\_\_ O<sub>2</sub> sats: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Overall Observations:**
  - Lip Closure:
  - Tongue Control During Bolus Hold:
  - Bolus Preparation/Mastication:
  - Bolus Transport/Lingual Motion:
  - Oral Residue:
  - Initiation of the Pharyngeal Swallow:
  - Soft Palate Elevation:
  - Laryngeal Elevation:
  - Anterior Hyoid Excursion:
  - Epiglottic Movement:
  - Laryngeal Vestibular Closure:
  - Pharyngeal Stripping Wave:
  - Pharyngeal Contraction:
  - Pharyngoesophageal Segment Opening:
  - Tongue Base Retraction:

- Pharyngeal Residue:
- Esophageal Clearance (Upright Position):

Jordan Hazelwood, R., Armeson, K. E., Hill, E. G., Bonilha, H. S., & Martin-Harris, B. (2017). Identification of swallowing tasks from a modified barium swallow study that optimize the detection of physiological impairment. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 60(7), 1855-1863.

- **Results of the Study**

- Swallowing WNL
- Dysphagia diagnosis:
- Severity:  Mildly impaired  Mildly to moderately impaired  Moderately impaired  
 Moderately to severely impaired  Severely impaired

Characterized by \_\_\_\_\_

- Contributing factors to swallowing impairment:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired oral phase                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced pharyngeal squeeze                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired oral-pharyngeal transport time | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced hyolaryngeal elevation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired velopharyngeal closure         | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper airway obstruction                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired velopharyngeal coordination    | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced cricopharyngeal opening            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired tongue base retraction         | <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal structural observations:<br>_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delayed initiation of swallowing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:<br>_____                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pharyngeal asymmetry                    | _____   |

- **Prognosis:**  Good  Fair  Poor, based on \_\_\_\_\_

- **Impact on Safety and Functioning: (Check all that apply.)**

- No limitations
- Risk for aspiration: \_\_\_\_\_
- Risk for inadequate nutrition/hydration: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Recommendations:**

- **Swallowing treatment?**  Yes  No

- **Diet Texture Recommendations:**

**Foods:**

- Regular (level 7)  Easy to chew (level 7)  Soft and bite-sized (level 6)  Minced and moist (level 5)  Pureed (level 4)  Liquidised (level 3)

- **Liquids:**

- Thin (level 0)  Slightly thick (level 1)  Mildly thick (level 2)  Moderately thick (level 3)  Extremely thick (level 4)



- NPO with alternative nutrition method: \_\_\_\_\_
- Alternative nutrition method with pleasure feedings: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

• **Recommended positions/maneuvers:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chin tuck     | <input type="checkbox"/> Supraglottic swallow       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head rotation | <input type="checkbox"/> Super supraglottic swallow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head tilt     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mendelsohn maneuver        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head back     | <input type="checkbox"/> Effortful swallow          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body position | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____               |

• **Safety precautions/swallowing recommendations:** (Check all that apply.)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision needed for all meals                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sips by straw only  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1 close supervision                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple swallows: _____                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1 distant supervision                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate liquids and solids                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To be fed only by trained staff/family          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensory enhancement (flavor, texture, temperature): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To be fed only by SLP                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Nipple flow rate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce distractions                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Positioning to orally feed                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs verbal cues to use recommended strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> Lateral presentation of bolus                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upright position at least 30 min after meals    | <input type="checkbox"/> Midline presentation of bolus                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small sips and bites when eating                | <input type="checkbox"/> Feet on footplate/chair (circle one)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slow rate; swallow between bites                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No straw  |  |

• **Follow-up VFSS?**  Yes  No

• **Other recommended referrals:** Occupational therapy

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dietetics            | <input type="checkbox"/> Orofacial myologist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gastroenterology     | <input type="checkbox"/> Otolaryngology      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neurology            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pulmonology         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lactation specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____        |

• **Patient/Caregiver Education**

- Described results of evaluation to family/caregivers.
- Family/caregivers expressed understanding of evaluation and treatment plan.
- Family/caregivers expressed understanding of safety precautions and feeding recommendations.
- Family/caregivers expressed understanding of evaluation but refused treatment.
- Family/caregivers require further education.