Dysphagic Patient Compliance with Thickened Liquid Recommendations
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Summary of Current Research:
- As few as 36% of dysphagic patients comply with recommendations (Leiter & Windsor, 1996)
- Thickened liquid recommendations least likely to be complied with (Low et al., 2001)
- Factors which influence patients’ decision NOT to comply (Colodny, 2005):
  - Denial of dysphagia/minimizing severity of condition
  - Dissatisfaction with the food preparations
  - Assuming a calculated risk of noncompliance/rationalizing noncompliance
  - Projecting blame on SLP/deflecting noncompliance to external authority

Health Belief Model of Behavioral Medicine:

Source: Clark & Becker (1998)

Research Questions:
- How do patients feel about the recommendations made to them by their SLP?
- Why do patients choose (or choose not to) follow these recommendations?
- What alternative methods do patients employ in the management of their swallowing difficulties?

Preliminary Results:
- Factors that influence compliance:
  - Continuity of Care  -  Patient-SLP Relationship
  - Self-Efficacy Expectations  -  Perceived Severity
  - Social Support  -  Patient/Family Education

Key References: