Registration Information

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For more information regarding the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s professional medical education offerings, please visit our Professional Medical Education Hub.

About the MDA:

MDA is committed to transforming the lives of people affected by muscular dystrophy, ALS and related neuromuscular diseases.

ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This program is offered for up to 0.1 (or 60 minutes) of ASHA CEU’s, Intermediate level, professional area.
Dysphagia in ALS is multifactorial and can be complicated by cognitive and/or behavioral manifestations that develop in 30-50% of individuals with ALS. Early referral to speech-language pathology, and regular follow up, enables thorough assessment of swallowing safety and identification of current risks, discussion of future management options, and education/recommendations regarding diet, bolus size and placement, mealtime environment, positioning, postures, oral hygiene, and need for supervision. Objective measures, including weight, body mass index, forced vital capacity, and rating scales can aid in tracking disease progression and future planning. Less clear is the role of instrumental swallowing evaluation and exercise in this patient population, although expiratory muscle training holds promise. These clinical controversies and evidence-based, patient-centered care will be addressed in this presentation.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Program Disclosure Statement

Financial:
- Donna Tippett will receive an honorarium from MDA for this presentation
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Salary
- NIH-NIDCD ROI DC 011317, Grants
- Thieme, Book Royalties

Nonfinancial
- None

Learner Outcomes

Participants will be able to:
1. Describe the nature of dysphagia in ALS.
2. State objective measures that can aid in tracking disease progression.
3. Describe compensatory strategies in the management of dysphagia in ALS.
4. Describe considerations regarding exercise in the management of dysphagia in ALS

Presenter Biography:

Donna C. Tippett, MA, MPH, CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Neurology, Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She earned a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Maryland and a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has worked in medical settings throughout her career, including acute inpatient, rehabilitation, and outpatient settings. Currently, she is a speech-language pathologist in the Johns Hopkins Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, evaluating and treating adults with communication and swallowing disorders due to neurologic diseases and head/neck cancer. She also serves as a consultant to the Johns
Hopkins Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinic. Ms. Tippett is the coordinator in the Stroke Cognitive Outcomes and Recovery lab and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland where she teaches anatomy and physiology of hearing and speech. Her research interests include patterns of longitudinal decline in primary progressive aphasia, language and behavioral correlations, and treatment of word finding deficits in this population. She has presented in the United States and Canada, and has published in peer-reviewed journals, highlighting the innovative programs she has developed in the management of individuals with communication and swallowing impairments, particularly in challenging populations, such as neurodegenerative etiologies.