

What is FEES?

Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) is a procedure performed by a speech-language pathologist (SLP) to assess a person's ability to swallow. A flexible scope attached to a camera is inserted into an awake patient's nose. The patient's throat, voice box, and upper airway are then viewed. The SLP then instructs the patient to swallow different kinds of food and liquid while the scope is in place. Food dye may be added to the food and liquid to improve its visibility.

Common Symptoms

that could indicate a FEES is needed



Coughing during or immediately following eating or drinking



Wet or gurgly sounding voice during or after eating or drinking



Extra effort or time needed to chew or swallow food



Food or liquid leaking from or remaining in the mouth



Recurring pneumonia or chest congestion after eating



Weight loss or dehydration, due to decreased food/liquid intake

Need More Info About FEES?

Please reach out to Renjason!



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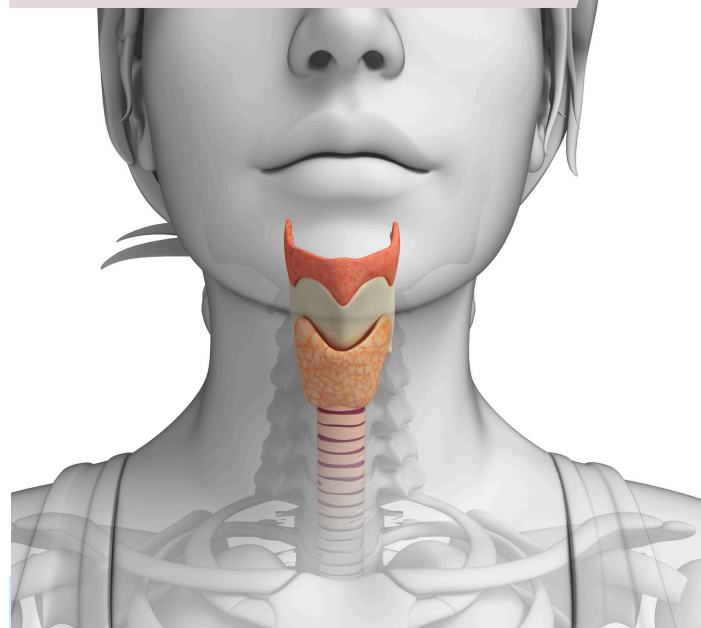
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Dysphagia



is the medical term for swallowing difficulties.



FEES

FIBEROPTIC ENDOSCOPIC
EVALUATION OF SWALLOWING

A procedure available at CRHC performed by a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) to assess a person's ability to swallow

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Who performs my FEES procedure?

Renjason Patulot is Clarinda Regional Health Center's Speech-Language Pathologist. He holds a certificate of clinical competency (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Renjason is excited to make this service available to members of our community to help individuals with swallowing difficulties.

Camryn (Gracie) Brown, M.S., CF - SLP
CRHC Speech-Language Pathologist



How can I get a FEES performed?

- 1 If this is the first time that swallowing difficulty is identified, discuss the issue with a primary care provider. The provider would then refer you to an SLP for an initial evaluation.
- 2 If appropriate, the evaluating SLP will then recommend FEES to your provider.
- 3 Your provider will then write an order for FEES to be performed.
- 4 The SLP can then perform your FEES procedure. Results of the study are then communicated with your provider and the SLP overseeing your treatment.

What are the advantages of performing FEES?

- FEES allows direct visualization of the throat and upper airway when swallowing. SLPs can use the information from FEES to develop treatment plans that best fit the patient's swallowing difficulties or make timely referrals to other professionals if there are other concerns noted.
- FEES does not expose the patient to radiation as opposed to radiographic swallow studies. Thus, FEES can be performed as frequently as needed. It can also be used as a form of biofeedback when patients perform swallowing therapy exercises.
- FEES is easy to set up and complete. It can be performed during typical feeding routines in the patient's familiar home environment.
- FEES is well-suited for patients who may have mobility issues and are unable to be safely transported to a hospital for swallow assessments.

