

Dysphagia

Oropharyngeal dysphagia

- May occur as a result of functional rather than mechanical aberrations of the swallowing mechanism
- Features suggestive of functional oropharyngeal dysphagia include:
 - History of stroke/ neurological conditions
 - Nasal regurgitation
 - Coughing or choking after swallowing (suggests aspiration)

Oesophageal dysphagia

- Patient localisation of the level of dysphagia correlates poorly with the site of pathology

Information Required

- Red flag features
- Neurological deficits
- Episodes of food bolus obstruction


Investigations Required

- Barium swallow if oropharyngeal dysphagia to exclude mechanical problem. Not required for oesophageal dysphagia.

Fax Referrals to

1. Oropharyngeal dysphagia (pouch/oesophageal pathology excluded)
Refer to Swallowing disorders clinic
 Flinders Medical Centre 8404 2249
2. If pharyngeal pouch or oesophageal pathology on barium swallow, red flag oesophageal dysphagia features
Refer to Oesophago-Gastric Surgical Clinic
 Flinders Medical Centre 8204 5555
3. All other referrals
Refer to Luminal Gastroenterology Clinic
 Flinders Medical Centre 8204 5555

Red Flags

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Weight loss  Progressive (rather than intermittent) dysphagia | <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Recurrent aspiration pneumonia  Epigastric mass |
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Suggested GP Management

- Severe dysphagia (progressive and/or weight loss) requires urgent referral and review

Oropharyngeal Dysphagia

- Speech/language therapy assessment if concern re aspiration

Oesophageal Dysphagia

- Soft diet and avoidance of bread and steak until review

Clinical Resources

- If Oesophageal cancer is highly suspected
<http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/0cd3500045a67b858f6faf9f9859b7b1/Upper+GI+Cancer+Care+Pathway+January+2011.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>
- Australian Doctor, How To Treat: Dysphagia
<http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/cmspages/getfile.aspx?guid=a9bcfc8f-683a-4229-9c48-61a93ef91b71>

Patient Information

- UpToDate Patient Information: Dysphagia (The Basics)
http://www.uptodate.com/contents/dysphagia-the-basics?source=see_link

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients.

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
2.1	Nov 2017	Nov 2019	Removed all RGH details