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NHS Foundation Trust

Dysphagia in learning disabilities: Issues of compliance

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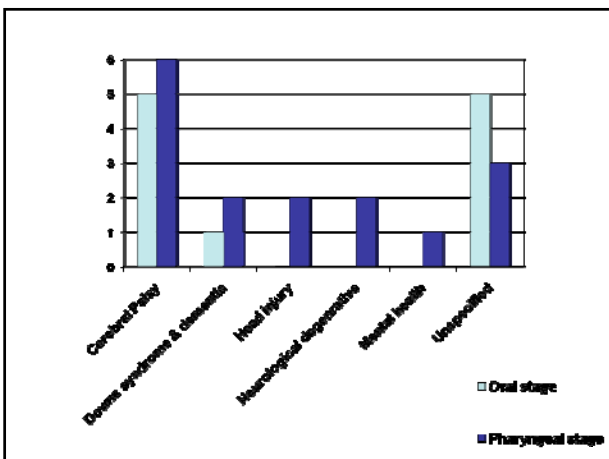
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Clinical research question....

To what extent do care staff in a day centre for adults with learning disabilities comply with dysphagia recommendations?

Are there any barriers that effect compliance?

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Results - carers and clients

	Mean percentage compliance		Mean percentage compliance
Total recommendations	82%	Had training	85%
Utensils	64%	No training	76%
Positioning	90%	Knew recommendations	80%
Mealttime guidelines	77%	Didn't know recommendations	90%
Food preparation	79%	Independent	76%
Support	100%	Dependent	88%

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Clinical importance

- Equipment
- Intermittent recommendations
- Food provision
- Total number of recommendations
- Experienced link carer & teamworking
- Training
- Support for independent clients

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Barriers

- 11/27 carers gave responses
- Inappropriate choice of meals
- Client 'behaviour'
- Environment
- Positioning/cushions
- Lack of utensils
- Suggestions for improvements

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QOL and compliance

- Denial of symptoms
- Not liking modifications
- Wanting to take calculated risks
- Minimizing social stigma & 'normalising'
- Long term requirements to follow recommendations

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Interesting points

- Airway protection and QOL
- Patients feeling imprisoned by their symptoms
- Aims for recovery based on desired activities

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Physical symptoms

- Thirst
- Dehydration
- Nausea
- Hunger
- Weight loss
- Lack of appetite

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Psycho social symptoms

- Ashamed
- Hopeless
- Humiliated
- Hopeless
- Isolated
- Panicked
- Out of control
- Low self esteem

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