

GENERAL INFORMATION



Speech & Language Therapy is a profession dedicated to the assessment and management of communication, swallowing and voice disorders.

We treat the following adult patient groups:

- Stroke
- Progressive neurological disorders (e.g. Parkinson's disease, Motor Neuron Disease, Multiple Sclerosis)
- Head injury
- Voice disorders
- Head and neck surgery
- Care of the elderly (e.g. patients with Dementia)
- Post general surgery
- Cancer Care
- Post radiation therapy
- Critical care
- Patients with tracheostomy

Speech & Language Therapy Services:

- Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients with disorders of speech, language, voice and swallowing.
- Education to patients and families/carers about their disorder.
- Videofluoroscopic assessment of swallowing disorders (both inpatient and outpatient service).

CONDITIONS ASSESSED AND TREATED BY SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY

Dysphagia:

This is the medical term for swallowing problems. It happens when the muscles used for chewing and swallowing become weakened. This may result in drink/ food being aspirated into the lungs.

Aphasia:

Following a stroke a person can experience a number of difficulties communicating. The most common is Aphasia which is a disorder of language. A person with aphasia may find it hard to:

- Talk
- Understand
- Read
- Write
- Use numbers/ do calculations

Dysarthria:

This is a problem with the muscles used for speaking. The patient will have difficulty pronouncing words. Speech may be slower and sound slurred or in severe cases it may be difficult to understand.

Voice Disorders:

Hoarseness may be caused by vocal strain, damage to the vocal folds from inappropriate use, paralysis of the vocal cords or neurological disorders.

SPECIALISED CLINICS**Videofluoroscopy:**

This is a specialised clinic that is held in the x-ray department to assess swallowing function in patients with swallowing disorders. A Radiologist (doctor) and a Speech and Language Therapist will be present for this assessment. You will be asked to eat and drink a variety of foods and drink and your swallow will be examined under x-ray. You do not need to fast for this assessment.

Contact:

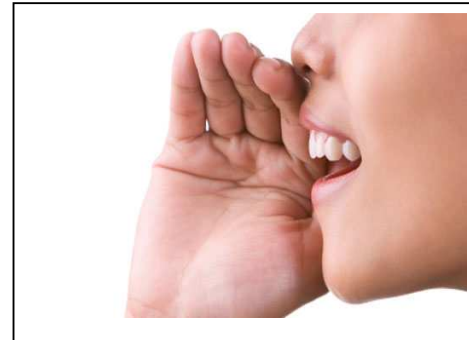
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Last revised May 2014
SLT.PIL016



Beacon Hospital

WHAT IS SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY?**Information Leaflet****Speech and Language Therapy Services
In Beacon Hospital**