

Abstract

Speech-Language Pathology is a vast field encompassing many disciplines. The scope of the field ranges from treating speech and language falling under the category of communication disorders, to swallowing. Swallowing disorders, called Dysphagia, have a huge impact on individuals globally, and affect individuals not only physically, but also mentally, emotionally, and socially as well. Professionals such as Speech-Language Pathologists can utilize various methods for treating swallowing disorders; the most common and well known being diet modification. This paper aims to provide readers with a basic introduction to the field of Speech-Language Pathology, a brief overview of the definition, assessment, and treatment of swallowing disorders, and additionally provide information on the future of swallowing disorders within Speech Pathology. It will include information on the newest initiative: the International Dysphagia Diet Standardization initiative, which focuses on creating standardized terminology for modified diets to be used internationally; and it will provide insight into the implications for students and newly graduated practitioners.

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