



Cervical auscultation in paediatric dysphagia

Presented by Dr Thuy Frakking and Dr Kelly Weir

Workshop details

Date: Thursday 28 and Friday 29 September 2023
8.30am registration, 9.00am start, 4.30pm finish

Venue: WA Country Health Service
Grace Vaughn House Office, 227 Stubbs Terrace, Shenton Park

Learning objectives

The 2-day workshop will focus on providing speech pathologists with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to use cervical auscultation with infants and children within a clinical environment.

Upon successful completion of this workshop participants will be able to:

- identify normal and abnormal swallowing and respiration sounds as they relate to physiological events of swallowing
- develop knowledge and skills in the practical application of stethoscopes and microphones in dysphagia assessment
- develop listening, analysing and interpreting skills using acoustic recordings of typically developing infants and children, and those with dysphagia, including aspiration
- describe and report on cervical auscultation findings
- gain an awareness of current literature relating to the clinical utility of cervical auscultation within the paediatric population.

About the presenters

Dr Thuy Frakking



Dr Frakking is an Advanced Speech Pathologist (Paediatrics) at Gold Coast University Hospital, Metro North Health Clinician Research Fellow and Research Director at Caboolture Hospital. She is the top-most prolific author in Australia and ranked 8th internationally in the field of cervical auscultation. Her PhD work on cervical auscultation has been cited in guidelines by 58 institutions nationally and internationally; and includes a position statement for the Latin America Dysphagia Society for the management of oropharyngeal and esophageal dysphagia during COVID-19 pandemic. She has attracted >\$1.7 million in research funding, including a MRFF grant focusing on the application of machine learning techniques with cervical auscultation to improve the accurate detection of aspiration in neonates and children. Her most recent work on the use of a classifier to detect aspiration in children won the Best Poster award at the 2021 European Society of Swallow Disorders Annual Congress.

Dr Kelly Weir



Kelly is the Director of Allied Health Research at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, and Associate Professor at The University of Melbourne. She is a certified practicing speech pathologist with extensive clinical paediatric dysphagia practice in tertiary paediatric hospitals. Kelly specialises and researches in the area of paediatric dysphagia (paediatric feeding disorder), aspiration-related respiratory disease, paediatric and neonatal intensive/acute care management, paediatric tracheostomy and dysphagia in children with disability; and is taking on PhD candidates in this area. She is an international presenter on paediatric dysphagia, regularly supports paediatric dysphagia education for low resource countries, has over 87 publications in international scientific journals, with her work cited extensively (3897 citations). At present, Kelly is involved in a number of research projects including investigating the use of cervical auscultation to detect aspiration in neonates, oral feeding and aspiration risk for infants receiving high flow nasal cannula respiratory support, oropharyngeal dysphagia in children with cerebral palsy or disability, and paediatric videofluoroscopy.