

# **TRANSLATION AND ADAPTATION OF A SET OF SWALLOWING SAFETY QUESTION AND MEASUREMENT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CAREGIVERS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE ON DYSPHAGIA**

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Numerous studies show that dysphagia or swallowing difficulty is a common feature that can be found in patients' with Parkinson's disease. Therefore, the main caregiver of a patient with Parkinson's disease should possess sufficient knowledge on dysphagia and its management. This is because caregivers play a very essential role in decreasing the swallowing problems in feeding by providing supervision with correct techniques during the patient's meal time. This preliminary study is aimed at measuring knowledge of caregivers of individuals with Parkinson's disease using a set of questions that was translated and adapted from *Swallowing Safety Questions Version 1 & 2* (Davis & Copeland 2005). Validity and reliability of the dysphagia questions were also measured in this study. Questions were divided into five components which are a) Structures and functions of normal and abnormal swallowing b) The relationship between Parkinson's Disease and swallowing disorder c) Consequences of a swallowing disorder d) Symptoms of a swallowing disorder e) Management of swallowing disorders. The questions were then distributed to the ten main caregivers of patient's with Parkinson's disease who had failed dysphagia screening. Results of the study suggested that the caregivers displayed limited to poor knowledge on dysphagia in general, when their scores were compared descriptively with three speech-language pathologists and three lay persons. Caregivers obtained the highest score in symptoms of a swallowing disorder component but obtained low scores in component (a) structures and functions of normal and abnormal swallowing and component (b) the relationship between Parkinson's disease and swallowing disorders in general. The multifactorial impact of knowledge scores were discussed in the study. Content validity of the dysphagia questions were obtained from an expert panel and the dysphagia questions have high discriminant validity with the correlation value,  $r = -0.866$ . The questions also have high test-retest reliability whereby the scores that were obtained from first and second tests did not show significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ). Therefore, the dysphagia questions in this study can be used as a reference and an additional measurement tool as a test on knowledge of caregivers with dysphagia.

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