

ESSD–ESGAR best practice position statements on the technical performance of videofluoroscopic swallowing studies in adult patients with swallowing disorders

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An international expert panel from the European Society of Swallowing Disorders and the European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology developed 18 best practice position statements to standardise the technical performance of videofluoroscopic swallowing studies.

KEY POINTS

- Videofluoroscopic swallowing studies remain the gold standard for instrumental assessment of oropharyngeal swallowing disorders alongside flexible endoscopic evaluation of swallowing.
- Eighteen consensus statements were developed using an online Delphi methodology with three consecutive rounds, reaching consensus when at least 80% of participants agreed on a specific recommendation.
- The statements cover VFSS planning, correct implementation, documentation, radiation protection, equipment and maintenance, and education and training.
- Significant regional and national differences in clinical practice when performing VFSS highlight the need for interdisciplinary recommendations to optimise patient care.
- These statements provide a structured framework for optimising and standardising VFSS performance in patients with swallowing disorders and may serve as a basis for ensuring high-quality service.

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