



What is a Modified Barium Swallow or Pediatric Swallow Function Study?

A videofluoroscopic swallow study, more commonly known as a Modified Barium Swallow (MBS) or a Pediatric Swallow Function Study, is a video x-ray examination performed jointly with a speech pathologist and radiologist. A MBS is generally completed following a traditional feeding and swallowing evaluation by the speech pathologist where the therapist or physician has recommended further evaluation of the swallow. This study allows for detailed examination of the feeding and swallowing systems, including the skills needed for food and liquid management in the mouth and throat, to safely swallow.

A pediatric swallow study focuses on ensuring that food and liquid are channeled normally into the stomach and are not entering the airway. Food and liquid entering the airway can negatively impact a child's health and/or their eating habits. This study provides immediate feedback and clinical results, reducing the need for a "trial and error" approach to treatment.

Parents are encouraged to take part in the swallow study by staying with and assisting in feeding their child. Feeding systems (bottles/nipples, cups,

spoons) familiar to the child are used whenever possible to simulate a routine mealtime experience. The therapist will interview parents prior to the study, when possible, and will follow the study with recommendations and education.

Avita Health System is excited to offer this service to our pediatric population closer to home. Please consult with your physician and/or speech pathologist for further information or to schedule a modified barium swallow study.



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