# Fitness for swallowing Speech therapy for swallowing disorders in adults with intellectual disability through biofeedback: does it work?

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Primary purpose: study the feasibility of a new treatment option based on biofeedback in people with intellectual disabilities. Secondary purpose: explore effects of treatment for swallowing problems in people with intellectual disabilities.

Ethical review Approved WMO

**Status** Recruitment stopped

**Health condition type** Other condition **Study type** Interventional

### **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON45655

#### **Source**

ToetsingOnline

#### **Brief title**

Fitness for swallowing

### **Condition**

• Other condition

#### Synonym

dysphagia, swallowing disorders

#### **Health condition**

slikstoornis

### Research involving

### **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** De Trans

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** deels gesubsidieerd door De Trans en aanvullende financiering uit synergiefonds van Espria (concern met verschillende zorgorganisaties waar De Trans deel van uit maakt) en een ontwikkelafspraak met het Zorgkantoor Drenthe. Silverfit heeft een scholing bechikbaar gesteld om de apparatuur te kunnen gebruiken. De apparatuur is aangeschaft door De Trans. Er zijn verder geen afspraken met Silverfit gemaakt.

### Intervention

**Keyword:** biofeedback, intellectual disability, speech therapy, swallowing disorders

### **Outcome measures**

### **Primary outcome**

There are a number of types of outcome measures:

- insight in minimal developmental age and minimum language comprehension level where the training is feasible.
- pre- and post-treatment severity and type of swallowing problems.
- physiological data on basistonus, swallow strength and timing.

### **Secondary outcome**

not applicable

# **Study description**

#### **Background summary**

Swallowing disorders are common in adults with intellectual disability. It is estimated that more than eight percent of all adults with intellectual disabilities are dealing with swallowing difficulties. Swallowingproblems are more common within the 24-hour care for people with intellectual disabilities. Recent research showed that almost 50% of adults in such a setting are dealing with swallowing problems. These problems range from mild to very severe.

Swallowing problems affect the enjoyment of food and drinking. Treatment options for swallowing problems these people are minimal. Following such therapy requires the patient insight into their own actions, the ability to follow instructions and practice independently and maintain skills. Experiences with biofeedback are positive and can help to learn the correct swallowing techniques.

For some time the SilverFit Rephagia program is available. The program uses visual exercises on a computer screen. This research has the primary goal to examine how the SilverFit Rephagia program is an appropriate training for adults with intellectual disabilities

### Study objective

Primary purpose: study the feasibility of a new treatment option based on biofeedback in people with intellectual disabilities.

Secondary purpose: explore effects of treatment for swallowing problems in people with intellectual disabilities.

### Study design

It concerns a feasibility study on the use of training to a new audience. Because especially looks at whether the study is suitable, and in addition, it is expected for the control group in terms of enhanced zero, there is no use is made of a control group.

For insights to provide for whom the training is and is not appropriate and how to act any effects of the training, we are using a multiple case study.

#### Intervention

Training on the basis of biofeedback where serious gaming is combined with sensory information from the swallowing activities. The intention is to achieve improvement in timing, strength and coordination of the swallowing process. Participants follow a speech therapy with SilverFit Rephagia for 6 weeks with a frequency of twice a week.

### Study burden and risks

The risks to participants are small. There is a small risk in choking, therfore not larger than in regular life of the participant.

It is possible that the participant has to do with skin irritation caused by the pad, which is stuck on the neck and throat.

The training takes less than half an hour per session.

The expectation is improvement of swallowing skills of the participants who follow the training.

Because of the expected improvement of the swallowing skills, there will be a reduction of the severity of dysphagia. So it makes the skills needed for

eating and drinking better and a decreasing chance of choking.

# **Contacts**

### **Public**

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**Scientific** 

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### **Trial sites**

### **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

### Age

Adults (18-64 years) Elderly (65 years and older)

### **Inclusion criteria**

There is at least a mild intellectual disability.

There is a swallowing disorder, determined by speech therapy research.

### **Exclusion criteria**

tube feeding through nose, stomach or intestine

# Study design

### **Design**

Study type: Interventional

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 01-05-2017

Enrollment: 20

Type: Actual

### Medical products/devices used

Generic name: Silverfit Rephagia

Registration: Yes - CE intended use

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 13-04-2017

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Brabant (Tilburg)

# **Study registrations**

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

# Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

# In other registers

Register ID

CCMO NL60602.028.17