

Swallowing Therapy

VitalStim® Treatment



Do you experience any of the following symptoms?

- Difficulty chewing
- Coughing during or after swallowing
- A “gurgly” sounding voice after eating
- Inability to swallow
- Consistent feeling that there is a lump in your throat
- The need to “wash down” solid foods
- Unexpected weight loss

If so, you are not alone... It is estimated that 15 million Americans are affected by swallowing disorders, with up to one million new patients diagnosed each year.

Swallowing disorders reportedly affect:

- 50-75% of stroke patients;
- 60-70% of patients who undergo radiation therapy for head and neck cancer; and
- Up to 90% of patients with neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s disease and ALS.

Sitrin’s VitalStim® Therapy Program is a specialized form of neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) designed to treat many swallowing disorders by stimulating and retraining atrophied muscles.

VitalStim® administers a specially calibrated current that goes directly to the affected muscles. This non-invasive, FDA-approved therapy stimulates the inactive muscles of the neck and re-trains them through the delivery of small electrical currents to obtain optimum swallowing function.

VitalStim® Therapy is designed to treat patients with swallowing disorders and/or the dependence upon feeding tubes and may often result in the ability to tolerate a normal diet.

Sitrin Speech-Language Pathologist, Kristyn Hammond, MS, CCC-SLP has been specially trained and certified to provide VitalStim® Swallowing Therapy.

Patients interested in participating in VitalStim® Swallowing Therapy at Sitrin must first obtain a speech-language referral from their doctor.

**For more information, please call
(315) 797-8000.**

Related Services offered at Sitrin:

- ▶ **Speech & Language Therapy**
- ▶ **Physical Therapy**
- ▶ **Occupational Therapy**

SITRIN

The Help. The Hope. The Healing.

Sitrin Medical Rehabilitation Center

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