Pharyngeal Phase Swallowing Disorders

Definition:
It is the inability to swallow of food and liquids through the pharynx and there may be a residual of food and liquids after the swallow, which might lead to airway penetration.

Causes of Pharyngeal Swallowing Disorders: (1)
- Delayed pharyngeal swallow
- Reduced Velopharyngeal Closure:
- Decreased Base of tongue Movement:
- Decreased Pharyngeal wall Contraction (Unilateral or Bilaterally)
- Decreased anterior movement of posterior pharyngeal wall
- Decreased Laryngeal Closure:
- Decreased Laryngeal elevation
- Decreased Arytenoid tipping
- Cricopharyngeal Dysfunction:
- Cervical Osteophytes
- Scar tissues; Pharyngeal Pouch:
- Pseudoepiglottis

The posterior-anterior view provides information to assess the unilateral nature of any pharyngeal swallowing disorders.

1- Unilateral Dysfunction in Posterior Movement of the Tongue Base:
- It leads to unilateral valleculae residue.

2- Unilateral Dysfunction of Pharynx:
- It leads to unilateral pyriform sinus residue after the swallow.

3- Vocal fold disorders:
- The posterior-anterior view assesses the vocal fold adduction and abduction movement because reduction in vocal fold movement leads aspiration during the swallow.
- The posterior-anterior view assesses the symmetrical height of the vocal folds.
Approach Pharyngeal Swallowing Disorders:

General symptoms:
1- Coughing during or after the swallow
2- Choking on food or liquid is a common complaint frequently as a result of poor timing (1).
3- Hoarseness or a "wet" or "gurgly" vocal quality after swallowing
4- Sensation of stuck food in the throat.
5- A lump-in-the-throat sensation
6- Pain during swallowing.
7- Drooling
8- Nasal regurgitation of food or liquid
9- Unexplained weight loss
10- Patients may have signs and symptoms of aspiration pneumonia

Works Cited