



Signs and Symptoms of Dysphagia

- frequent refusal to eat or drink
- irritability or behavioral problems during eating
- inability to tactilely recognize food (tactile agnosia)
- difficulty placing or keeping food in the mouth
- oral hypersensitivity or hyposensitivity
- food texture hypersensitivity or aversion
- difficulty controlling saliva in the mouth or significant drooling, especially after eating
- difficulty controlling food in the mouth or excessive mouth movement during chewing and swallowing
- difficulty starting to swallow
- frequent gagging or spitting or vomiting during or after eating or drinking
- needing to swallow a few times to get food down
- repeated drinking while or immediately after chewing or swallowing
- food left on tongue or pocketed on the side of the mouth after swallowing
- frequent throat clearing or coughing before/during/after eating or drinking
- watery eyes (tearing) during or after eating or drinking
- extended feeding periods (longer than 30–40 minutes)
- gurgly voice quality or breath sounds, especially after eating or drinking.
- Changes in breathing patterns while eating
- frequent bouts of pneumonia or other chronic respiratory problems
- weight loss of unclear origin, failure to gain weight appropriately or evidence of malnutrition

(Logemann and Homer et al., 2000)