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## Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES)

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Dysphagia, or else swallowing disorders, are associated with any subjective or objective difficulty in swallowing solid or liquid foods or the appearance of coughing or choking when swallowing. It is a very serious symptom that should be treated promptly, to avoid more serious complications for the patient. Dysphagia may be seen at various age groups, from infants to the elderly and may be the result of head and neck diseases, mouth, pharynx, larynx, palate malignancies, neuromuscular disorders, neurological diseases (multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease etc.), strokes, or it may follow after head injuries, complications in surgery, or x-raying in the head and neck area. In children, it is mainly due to congenital disorders, while in the elderly mainly due to degeneration of the central nervous system causing dysfunction in swallowing and other neurological diseases that lead to loss of consciousness, etc.

Swallowing disorders, however, can also occur suddenly, if they are a result of a car accident, trauma or postoperative

complication, and in these cases immediate restoration of the feeding function is required for the patient's survival. This can happen during feeding via a Levin tube or even gastrostomy. Dysphagia is being diagnosed with a very specialized and affordable test, which can be done at the clinic, at the hospital or at home if the patient cannot be transported. This examination is known as FEES (Flexible endoscopic evaluation of swallowing).

### Speaker Biography

Anatoli Pataridou is an eminent physician. She has contributed with complete success to the 1<sup>st</sup> in Greece intermittent tumor removal from the larynx with the Da Vinci Robotic Surgery System at Hygeia Hospital. Her clinical and research interest focuses on transient Robotic Surgery in the treatment of benign diseases such as obstructive sleep apnea and malignant mouth-pharyngeal laryngeal conditions in the application of Endoscopic Laser CO<sub>2</sub> in the treatment of benign and malignant oral pharyngeal disorders-larynx.

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