



## Conditions/Disorders that may Contribute to or Cause Communication, Swallowing or Hearing Difficulties in Older Adults

*Please note, this is not an exhaustive list of all conditions, just some examples you should be aware of where a speech-language pathologist or audiologist may be able to provide assistance:*

- Stroke
- Parkinson's Disease
- Parkinson's Plus syndromes/Multiple-Systems Atrophy (e.g. PSP)
- Huntington's Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Dementia (e.g. Alzheimer's Disease, vascular dementia)
- Cerebellar Degeneration
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Myasthenia Gravis
- Head injury
- Trauma to the mouth and/or neck
- Cancerous tumour (of the brain, mouth, throat, esophagus, auditory nerve)
- Surgical resection of the brain (to remove a tumor, help control seizure activity, etc.)
- Exposure to radiation (as in radiation therapy)
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)
- Post-polio syndrome
- Myositis (several forms including polymyositis, inclusion-body myositis, etc.)
- Bell's Palsy
- Xerostomia (caused by anorectics, anticholinergics, antidepressants, antipsychotics, sedatives, antihistamines, diuretics, antihypertensives or by autoimmune diseases such as Sjogren's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis)
- Dystonia - involuntary sustained/spasmodic muscle contractions (e.g. spasmodic torticollis, oromandibular dystonia)
- Dyskinesia - involuntary choreatic movements (e.g. tardive dyskinesia resulting from long-term exposure to neuroleptics)
- Zenker's diverticula (a pouch or pocket near the opening to the esophagus)
- Schatzke's ring (thickening of the wall and tightening of the muscles of the esophagus near the opening to the stomach)
- Cerebral Palsy
- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease
- Myopathy
- Scleroderma
- Arthritis (cervical osteophytes)
- Diabetes
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Noise exposure
- Exposure to toxins and Ototoxic medications
- Neurofibromatosis (Type II)
- Hypothyroidism
- Menière's disease
- Usher's syndrome
- Tinnitus
- Cerebral and meningeal infections (encephalitis and meningitis)
- Other



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