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Role of Occupational therapy in Dysphagia management for children with special needs-A behavioural perspective

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ating is the most basic ADL (Activities for Daily Living) L necessary for survival from birth until death. Dysphagia is a swallowing disorder that can occur in any stage of swallowing. Occupational therapists are trained to assess and provide intervention in the process of eating. Occupational Therapy (OT) in Dysphagia Management includes assessment which provides performance issues involved in the task of eating (sensory motor, cognitive, behavioural, psycho-social etc) needed for the activity. This helps in the intervention, suggestion of an adaptation, modification or assistive technology device for a client as per the need. Behavioural feeding disorders in infants and children constitute a broad spectrum, ranging from mild issues that do not involve major health threats, to severe issues such as malnutrition and the need for enteral feedings.

Occupational therapist provides training in the skills needed for feeding the child and/or training him or her in compensatory strategies and direct skill building.

The following points would be discussed at the conference:

- General aspects of Assessment and Intervention
- Evidence based practice related to the Latest studies, development and various innovative intervention/ products for children with special needs in dysphagia management.
- Role of OT as a member of the rehabilitation team
- Behaviour aspect of feeding with the latest studies and literature review.

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