## American College of Radiology

**ACR Appropriateness Criteria®**

**Dysphagia**

**Variant 1:** Oropharyngeal dysphagia with an attributable cause. Initial imaging.

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**Note:** The table shows the appropriateness of various imaging procedures for evaluating retrosternal dysphagia in immunocompetent patients. The ratings indicate the consensus on the appropriateness of each procedure, with values ranging from 1 (strongly inappropriate) to 9 (strongly appropriate). The median and final tabulations reflect the aggregated expert consensus for each procedure.
### Esophageal Transit Nuclear Medicine Scan

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**Variant 5:** Early postoperative dysphagia. Oropharyngeal or retrosternal. Initial imaging.

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### Variant 6: Delayed (greater than 1 month) postoperative development of dysphagia. Oropharyngeal or retrosternal. Initial imaging.

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<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<td>Fluoroscopy barium swallow modified</td>
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Appendix Key

A more complete discussion of the items presented below can be found by accessing the supporting documents at the designated hyperlinks.

**Appropriateness Category**: The panel's recommendation for a procedure based on the assessment of the risks and benefits of performing the procedure for the specified clinical scenario.

**SOE**: Strength of Evidence. The assessment of the amount and quality of evidence found in the peer reviewed medical literature for an appropriateness recommendation.

- **References**: The citation number and PMID for the reference(s) associated with the recommendation.
- **Study Quality**: The assessment of the quality of an individual reference based on the number of study quality elements described in the reference.

**RRL**: Relative Radiation Level. A population based assessment of the amount of radiation a typical patient may be exposed to during the specified procedure.

**Rating**: The final rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Median**: The median rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Final tabulations**: A histogram showing the number of panel members who rated the procedure as noted in the column heading (ie, 1, 2, 3, etc.).

Additional supporting documents about the AC methodology and processes can be found at [www.acr.org/ac](http://www.acr.org/ac).