

# MODIFIED BARIUM SWALLOWING STUDY (MBS)



## Overview and Terms

**A modified barium swallowing study (MBS) is a videotaped x-ray of your child's oral (mouth) and pharyngeal (throat) mechanism during eating. It is often ordered by your pediatrician to determine or "rule out" aspiration or obstruction. It helps your child's therapist identify ways to safely feed your child and ways to help your child eat or prepare to eat safely.**

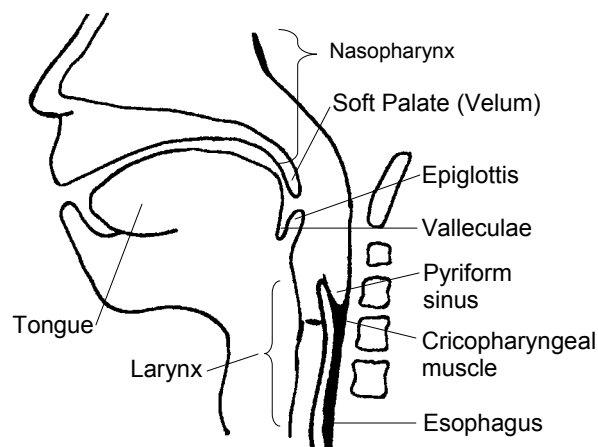
**Aspiration:** Entrance of food or liquid into the airway below the level of the vocal folds

**Silent Aspiration:** Cough not produced within 10 seconds of the aspiration episode

**Barium:** A contrast substance added to food/liquid to make it visible on x-ray

**Bolus:** Food or liquid

**Cricopharyngeal Muscle:** The muscles at the top of the esophagus. These muscles are held in contraction to prevent air from entering the esophagus and gastric contents from entering the throat. These muscles relax to allow food/liquid into the esophagus



**Oral/Pharyngeal Anatomy**

**Dysphagia:** Feeding/swallowing disorder

**Epiglottic Undercoating:** Material lining the underside of the epiglottis in an attempt to enter the airway; does not encroach upon airway as much as laryngeal penetration.

**Laryngeal Penetration:** Entrance of material into the top of the airway that is subsequently "stripped out" during the swallowing

**Lateral Planes:** Side view of the swallowing process

**Nasopharyngeal Penetration:** Food entering into the nasopharynx (nose/ back of throat) or nasal cavities

**Pharynx:** Throat

**Pooling:** Collection of bolus in the throat before swallowing

**Pyriform Sinus:** The lower set of "safety pockets" in the throat

**Retrograde Movement:** Backward movement of bolus

**Stasis:** Residue; what is leftover in the pharynx or mouth after each swallow

**Transit:** **Oral:** "speed" of bolus from the mouth to the pharynx  
**Pharyngeal:** "speed" of bolus through the pharynx

**Valleculae:** The higher set of "safety pockets" in the throat