



Overview

Each year over 60,000 Americans die from complications associated with swallowing dysfunctions (dysphagia), most commonly aspiration pneumonia – caused by food or saliva going down the windpipe into their lungs.

A large proportion of these cases are due to dysphagia arising from stroke, degenerative neurological diseases, and head and neck cancer. Traditional methods to treat dysphagia include conventional speech therapy with oral exercises, patient/family education, swallowing manoeuvres (e.g., tucking the chin), and physiological exercises.

The University of Limerick is interested in seeking partners to exploit the commercial potential of the OroPress technologies by entering into licensing agreements, using the technologies as the basis of a Spin-Out company and/or innovation partnerships that mutually benefit both parties.



Fig 1: Normal swallowing process

Technology

OroPress™ is a Class IIa wireless medical device that uses tongue pressure measurement to diagnose and assist in the rehabilitation of oral swallowing dysfunction, thereby reducing hospital stays, healthcare costs and dysphagia-associated complications including pneumonia, dehydration and malnutrition.

OroPress™ was developed by a multi-disciplinary team from UL's Department of Clinical Therapies, Physics, Electronic & Computer Engineering, and Product Design & Technology.

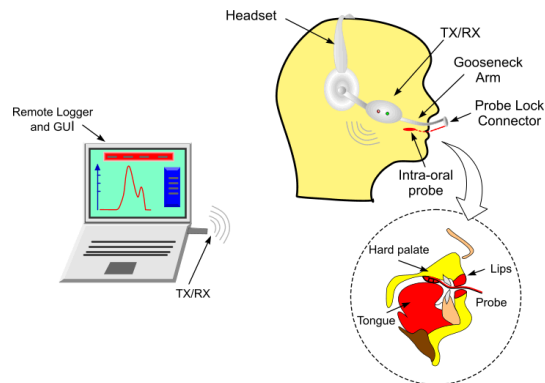


Fig 2: OroPress™ System

Commercial Opportunity

The device is primarily targeted at speech and language therapists working with patients in hospitals and private practice but could also be used in the home by the patient, as part of a rehabilitation programme.

Intellectual Property

US Patent number 8,764,685 B2 is licenced by the University of Limerick.

Contact

Dr. Margaret Lawlor,
Technology Transfer Office
University of Limerick, Limerick
p: +353-(0)61-202212;
e: margaret.lawlor@ul.ie