



ESSD 2026 – Pre-Congress Course

Ultrasound in Swallowing Assessment: Principles and Clinical Practice

Leiden, 19 November 2026

08:45 – 17:30

Moderators: Emilia Michou, Jodi Allen and Simone Knuijt

Course Introduction

Ultrasound (US) is emerging as a non-invasive imaging modality in the assessment and management of swallowing. It enables dynamic visualisation of orofacial, suprahyoid, and hyolaryngeal structures without radiation exposure or patient discomfort. This one-day hands-on experience is designed for clinicians and researchers interested in ultrasound in dysphagia assessment and management.

After completion of the course, the participant will be able to:

- demonstrate basic anatomical knowledge relevant to orofacial muscle ultrasound
- describe different methods for evaluating orofacial muscle ultrasound findings
- demonstrate an understanding of the benefits and limitations of using orofacial muscle ultrasound in dysphagia practice
- demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of ultrasound and how device adjustment impacts image acquisitioninterpret findings from orofacial muscle ultrasound in the context of clinical case studies.
- have an understanding of dynamic ultrasound evaluation in dysphagia and advancing applications

Please note that this is not a competency-based training course; attendance will not result in practical clinical certification or readiness. Instead, it aims to explore future possibilities and generate discussion around the integration of ultrasound in dysphagia assessment and intervention.

Program Schedule

Time	Session	Faculty
08:45 – 09:00	Welcome & Introduction	Emilia Michou Jodi Allen Simone Knuijt
09:00 – 9:30	What is ultrasound?	Simone Knuijt
9:30-10:00	Overview of current applications & emerging research	Jodi Allen
10:00 – 10:30	Identification of core head & neck structures (theory)	Simone Knuijt
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:45	Hands-On Session 1: identification of core structures	all
11:45 – 12:15	Muscle ultrasound - image acquisition & analysis (theory)	Jodi Allen
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch	
13:15 – 14:00	Hands-On Session 2: Muscle ultrasound acquisition & analysis	all
14:00 – 14:45	Dynamic ultrasound (to include laryngeal ultrasound, thyro-hyoid movement, tongue movement) (theory)	Emilia Michou
14:45 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 15:45	Advanced Applications	Emilia Michou
15:45 – 16:30	Hands-On Session 3: Dynamic ultrasound	all
16:30 – 17:15	Case studies	Emilia Michou Jodi Allen Simone Knuijt
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up & Discussion	All