

## **ABSTRACT** *(v AJ)*

Nursing care for patients with dysphagia after stroke is nowadays a very serious problem. This disease is particularly dangerous for patients because of the risk of imminent aspiration pneumonia. In 2015, Czech Republic has developed a standard treatment plan for patients with dysphagia after stroke and following this plan a new screening method was put into practice, which would prevent aspiration pneumonia (Salt, 2015). This method is called THE GUGGING SWALLOWING SCREEN - GUSS test. After a positive GUSS test result a standardized nursing care should follow, which would involve the whole medical team (doctors, health nurses, speech therapists, physiotherapists and orderly).

The aim of this work is to verify whether the GUSS test and subsequently the determined process of the standard treatment together with the nursing care meets and the needs of the nurses. Another objective is to verify whether the nurses would want to add, innovate or make necessary updates based on the already acquired experiences. Furthermore, taking into consideration the frequent collaboration of nurses with the speech therapists, this study also aims to evaluate and assess the cooperation between nurses and the speech therapists. The work also evaluates the effectiveness of the use of GUSS test in providing nursing care and treatment of swallowing disorders.

**Methodology:** The empirical part is processed through qualitative research - a case report. For the purpose of this case study, a patient after stroke was selected. This patient had undergone the GUSS test which was negative, however, this was followed by a sudden aspiration. The analysis of the case study was followed by interviews with four nurses and two speech therapists working in the stroke unit. Interviews were conducted in the form of open questions with the focus on obtaining relevant information of how the interviewed nurses and speech therapists evaluated the benefits and effectiveness of the established procedure of the GUSS test. The results obtained from these interviews are assessed in the final discussion.

**Implementation:** The results show that nurses came to a conclusion that the biggest problem of the GUSS test is the actual lack of education in this area. In addition, they highlighted the fact that the GUSS test should not be carried out only on stroke units, but also in other departments. As a point for improvement, the nurses suggested to think of better timing of administering the GUSS test to the patients due to the lack of their cooperation on admission to the unit. They would not change anything major on the standard nursing care. Based on the collated information it is clear that there is a need to prepare and organise a

seminar which would focus on educating how to work with GUSS test not only for nurses working in the stroke units, but also for nurses working in other departments.

**Keywords:** swallowing disorders, nursing care, speech therapist, stroke, screening test  
-GUSS test.