

Synchrony Champions Corner

The Speech Therapy team at Cape Heritage Rehabilitation and Health Center in Sandwich, MA are to be commended for both the successes they've achieved and the passion with which they've embraced Synchrony Dysphagia Solutions. In using Synchrony as an adjunct to traditional speech therapy interventions, they have facilitated life-changing outcomes for many of their patients.

The team at Cape Heritage includes Robyn Crane, MA, CCC-SLP, and Diane Gibbons, MS, ED, CCC-SLP. From the outset of their introduction to Synchrony in late February of this year, the ACP SLP Clinical Program Consultant, Rita Freydel, MS, CCC-SLP, noted their enthusiasm and thoughtful questions. They were eager to get started and saw Synchrony sEMG as an opportunity to better assess and quantify the deficits that limited the quality of their patients' swallow function. After receiving initial Synchrony sEMG training, they immediately implemented the program with two patients. Two weeks later, they reported that one of their patients (1-year post-CVA) was able to increase his effortful swallow intensity two-fold with the use of the Synchrony sEMG biofeedback visualizations.



Robyn Crane, MA, CCC-SLP and Diane Gibbons, MS ED, CCC-SLP

By May, Robyn and Diane were really hitting their stride! They initiated treatment on a patient with decreased oral/pharyngeal function and impaired airway protection, as noted during a Modified Barium Swallow Study. This patient was failing to thrive, had recently been in the hospital, and weighed only 85 lbs. All of her nutrition and medications were provided through a PEG tube, which had been in place for two months. Robyn and Diane used Synchrony sEMG biofeedback to provide visualization to guide her typical and effortful swallow rehabilitation 5-6 times per week for five weeks. With skilled therapy intervention augmented by Synchrony, this patient was able to progress to a mechanical soft diet with thin liquids and gained nearly 25 lbs. As a result, she is now able to consider returning to her home!

Excitement over Synchrony Dysphagia Solutions could not be contained within the facility. Robyn and yet another patient were featured in the May 22nd issue of the *Cape Cod Times*! As with other patients, this featured patient also experienced significant weight gain and improved confidence in her swallowing abilities as a result of using Synchrony sEMG biofeedback visualizations, which helped improve her motor coordination and motivated her to work harder each session. You can read the feature story here:

www.capecodtimes.com/news/20160522/synchrony-makes-life-easier-to-swallow

Thank you, Robyn and Diane, for sharing your successes with Synchrony sEMG. Your example is an inspiration and a great motivator for all SLPs who want to provide thoughtful assessment and quality exercises to produce tremendous treatment outcomes!