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Difficulty swallowing in adults: Symptom Checker

**DocID**

No DocID – not contained in FarCry

**Title**

Difficulty swallowing

**Feature Title**

Difficulty swallowing

**List Title**

Difficulty swallowing

**Content is Contracted**

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**MCV Main tag**

**MCV Other tag(s)**

Content Packages > Symptom checker mobile > Adult > Digestive and urinary problems

**MCV Related tag(s)**

**Primary Location**

Diseases and Conditions

**Tease**

Difficulty swallowing means that it takes more time or effort to swallow. Identify possible common causes based on symptoms you're experiencing.

**Abstract**

Find possible causes of difficulty swallowing in adults. See our Symptom Checker.

**Benefit Summary**

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difficulty-swallowing

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N/A

**Billboard**

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**Alternate Titles**

**FeatureID**

**Gender**

**Age**

Adult

**ENTER IN FARCRY:**

**When to get medical help**

Get emergency care for difficulty swallowing if you: (1)

Have something stuck in your throat

Can't swallow at all

Have trouble breathing

**Self-care strategies**

Because of the nature of this symptom, it's best to contact your health care provider. Please see the "Seek Care" section to determine an appropriate course of action.

**More Information**

Difficulty swallowing DS00523

**END OF FARCRY TEXT**

Difficulty swallowing is usually the result of damage to the esophagus, blockage of the esophagus, or poor function of the nerves and muscles that control swallowing. (2, p. 3-4) Find possible causes of difficulty swallowing based on specific factors. Check one or more factors on this page that apply to your symptom.

**Swallowing**

Hurts

Takes effort

**Triggered or worsened by**

Eating certain foods

**Accompanied by**

Bad breath

Cough

Difficulty breathing

Dry eyes

Dry mouth

Earache

Feeling of something stuck in your throat

Heartburn

Hoarse voice or difficulty speaking

Jaw pain or stiffness

Loose teeth or poorly fitting dentures

Lump in front of neck

Mouth sores, lumps or pain

Muscle cramps or twitching in arms, shoulders or tongue

Muscle weakness in hands, feet or legs

Numbness, pain and color changes in fingers

Pain in chest or back

Regurgitation of food or sour liquid

Slurred speech or difficulty speaking

Sore throat

Thick saliva

Tight, hardened skin

Unintended weight loss

**Possible causes**

These diseases and conditions match at least one of the factors you selected. Those with the most matches are listed first. (1; 2, p. 3-6)

DS00359 Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (3)

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by muscle cramps or twitching in arms, shoulders or tongue

Accompanied by muscle weakness in hands, feet or legs

Accompanied by slurred speech or difficulty speaking

HA00034 Dry mouth (4)

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by bad breath

Accompanied by dry mouth

Accompanied by hoarse voice or difficulty speaking

Accompanied by sore throat

Accompanied by thick saliva

DS00500 Esophageal cancer (5, 6)

Swallowing hurts

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by hoarse voice or difficulty speaking

Accompanied by pain in chest or back

Accompanied by regurgitation of food or sour liquid

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS00763 Esophageal spasms (7)

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by feeling of something stuck in your throat

Accompanied by heartburn

Accompanied by pain in chest or back

Accompanied by regurgitation of food or sour liquid

DS00967 GERD (8)

Swallowing takes effort

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by feeling of something stuck in your throat

Accompanied by heartburn

Accompanied by hoarse voice or difficulty speaking

Accompanied by pain in chest or back

Accompanied by regurgitation of food or sour liquid

Accompanied by sore throat

DS00580 Limited scleroderma (CREST syndrome) (9)

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by heartburn

Accompanied by numbness, pain and color changes in fingers

Accompanied by tight, hardened skin

DS01089 Mouth cancer (10)

Swallowing hurts

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by feeling of something stuck in your throat

Accompanied by jaw pain or stiffness

Accompanied by loose teeth or poorly fitting dentures

Accompanied by mouth sores, lumps or pain

Accompanied by sore throat

DS00147 Sjogren's syndrome (11)

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by dry eyes

Accompanied by dry mouth

Accompanied by hoarse voice or difficulty speaking

DS00349 Throat cancer (12, 13)

Swallowing takes effort

Accompanied by bad breath

Accompanied by cough

Accompanied by difficulty breathing

Accompanied by earache

Accompanied by feeling that something is stuck in your throat

Accompanied by lump in front of neck

Accompanied by sore throat

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

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PAGE 5