

SECTION #2

HIGH INCIDENCE AND WHY

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN 2006

#1 - Heart Disease

#2 - Nervous System Diseases

#3 - RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS
(aspiration pneumonia)

#4 - Cancer

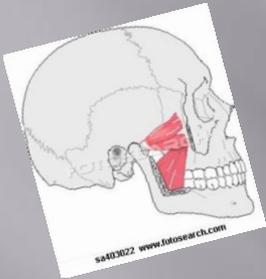


WHO HAS SWALLOWING OR CHEWING PROBLEMS?

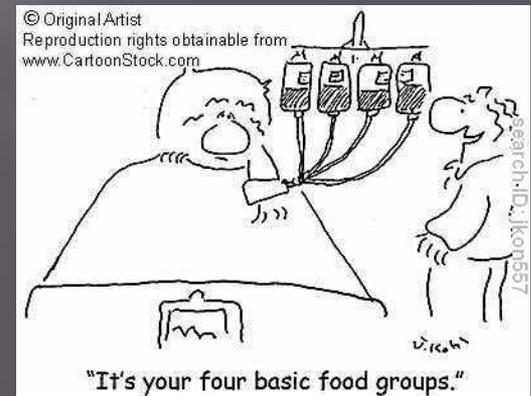
- >5-20% individuals with developmental disabilities
- >10-30% individuals with developmental disabilities AND cerebral palsy
- 50% of geriatric clients
- 30-40% of people who have had strokes



REASONS FOR HIGH INCIDENCE OF ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA IN PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



- Poor Oromotor skills (“oromotor” muscles are involved in chewing and swallowing)
- Dysphagia (difficulty swallowing)
- Depressed gag and cough reflexes
- Long term tube feeding
- Tracheostomies



PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MAY ALSO HAVE

- History of pneumonia
- Spasticity
- Seizures
- Rumination (eating disorder where partially digested food comes up and is re-chewed before it is swallowed or spit out)
- Inability to feed self
- Scoliosis (curved spine)
- Repeated unexplained low grade fevers



RISKY EATING BEHAVIORS CAN CAUSE ASPIRATION



- Eating too quickly or too slowly
- Overfilling mouth, big bites, swallowing food whole
- Pica (eating non nutritive/inedible substances)

