

# DYSPHAGIA IN HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE: SYMPTOMS AND A PATIENT PERSPECTIVE

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## Background

Dysphagia is a frequent finding in patients with HD. Up to 75% of the patients die of aspiration pneumonia. Symptoms of dysphagia already start in the very beginning of HD and become more severe when the disease progresses. The different symptoms of dysphagia in HD are already known. It is also known that there are treatment possibilities for dysphagia, such as the Masako and the Mendelsohn maneuver, but these are validated for other diseases, like a cerebro vascular accident or Parkinson's disease. There is no evidence that patients with HD benefit from this treatment. In our experience with HD, patients do benefit from dysphagia treatment.

## Method

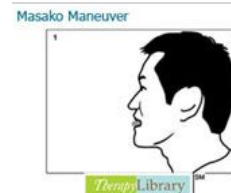
More than 30 HD patients with dysphagia were treated using the Masako and Mendelsohn maneuver. For one specific patient a video was made to make a report of her swallowing progress.



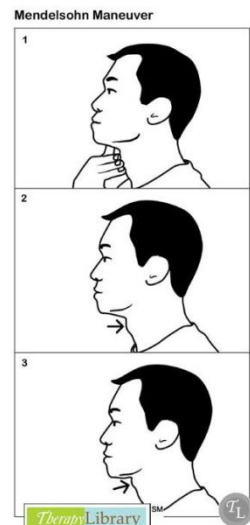
HD patient with poor oral control, spilling and residue in the valleculae



HD patient with solid food residue in the piriform sinus



Masako Maneuver



Mendelsohn Maneuver

## Conclusion

For treatment possibilities, patients with HD seem to benefit from especially the Masako and Mendelsohn maneuver. For one patient the findings were documented and recorded on a video. This video was published on [www.huntingtonplein.nl](http://www.huntingtonplein.nl)



## Results



- ✓ Most patients could perform at least one swallowing maneuver
- ✓ Most patients reported based on their experience that they benefit from the dysphagia treatment
- ✓ A video of one specific patient was published on [www.huntingtonplein.nl](http://www.huntingtonplein.nl)

