

Speech-Language Pathologists' Knowledge, Attitudes & Experience of Obstructive Sleep Apnea: An International Survey

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INTRODUCTION

- Up to 78% of patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) have dysphagia¹

STUDY AIM

- To evaluate speech-language pathologists (SLPs) knowledge, attitudes and experience of OSA

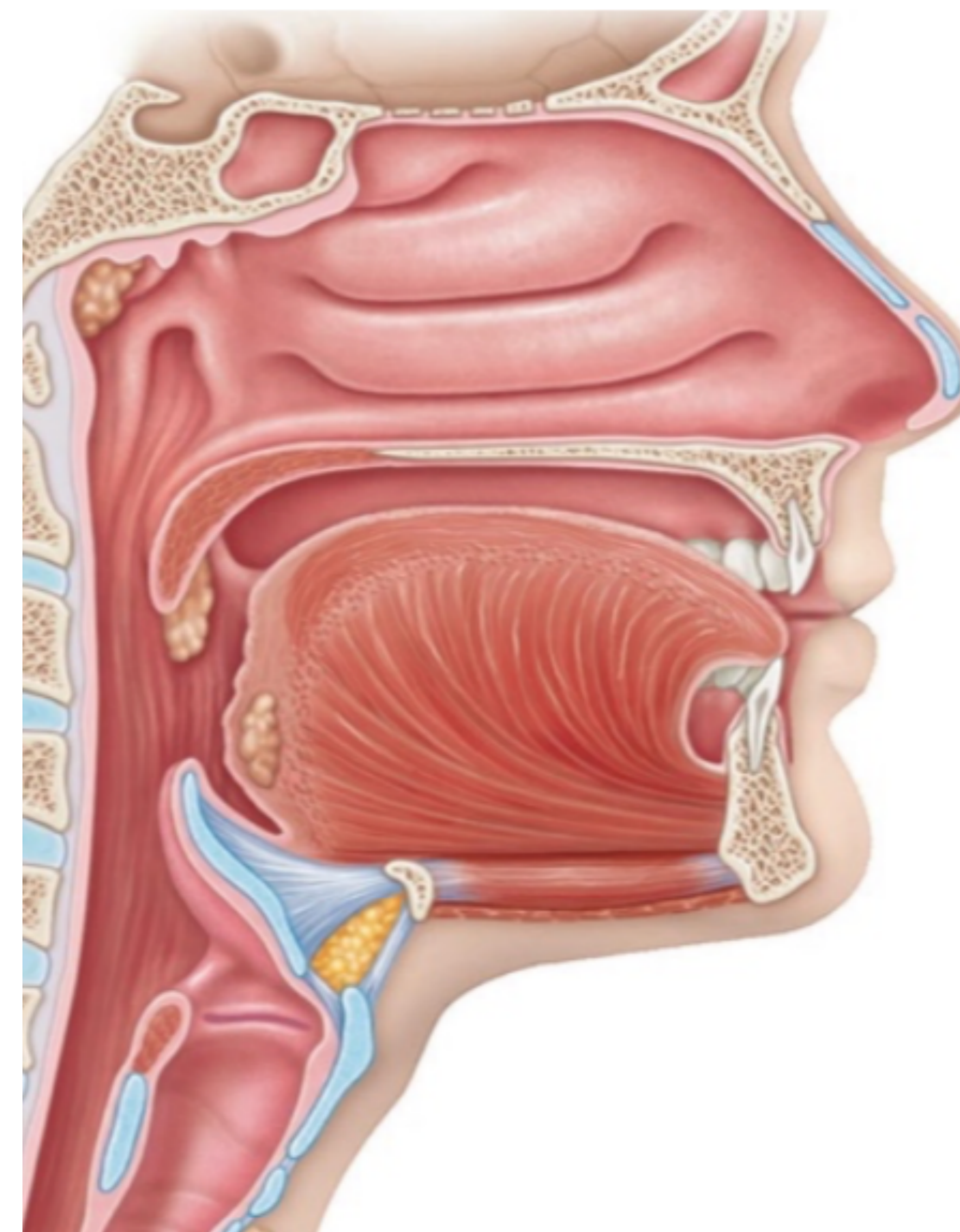
METHODS

- A validated questionnaire, Obstructive Sleep Apnea Knowledge and Attitudes (OSAKA)², was distributed to SLPs internationally via an online survey

QR code link to questionnaire:



Over half of SLPs reported patients with OSA on their caseload. Knowledge of OSA was limited.



There is an urgent need for education & training in OSA to support practicing SLPs.

RESULTS (n = 822 SLPs)

- OSA Knowledge Score** (mean, range):
- 55% (14-86%) correct responses
- Attitudes** - 88% felt OSA was important
- Experience:**
- 51% had patients with OSA on their caseload
 - 60% were referred for dysphagia services
 - >50% did not feel confident in assessing or managing dysphagia in patients with OSA
 - Experience had a significant effect on knowledge and attitude scores ($p < 0.05$)

CONCLUSION

- SLPs have patients with OSA on their caseload
- Knowledge of OSA is limited
- There is an urgent need to increase education and training in OSA for SLPs

¹Bhutada et al., 2020 ; ²Schotland & Jeffe, 2008