



Peter C. Belafsky, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Clinical Interests Dr. Belafsky's primary clinical interests are the comprehensive diagnosis and management of voice, swallowing, and airway disorders. As Director of the Voice and Swallowing Center at UC Davis, Dr. Belafsky treats a wide array of laryngeal and esophageal disorders. These disorders include but are not limited to vocal fold paralysis and paresis, vocal fold dysfunction (VCD), laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR), chronic cough, and dysphagia caused by stroke, ALS, Zenker's diverticulum, esophageal motility disorders, Parkinson's disease, and swallowing problems suffered as a consequence of the treatment of head and neck cancer. Dr. Belafsky has pioneered minimally invasive treatments of voice and swallowing disorders. Minimally invasive in-office procedures performed by Dr. Belafsky at the Center include unsedated treatment of laryngeal polyps, leukoplakia, and papillomas, subglottic, tracheal, and esophageal strictures, and office-based vocal fold medialization.

Research/Academic Interests Dr. Belafsky's primary passion is the innovative treatment of profound swallowing disorders. He has created a medical device that can manually control the upper esophageal sphincter, is working on an innovative dilator for upper esophageal sphincter stenosis, is developing a comprehensive swallow propulsion system, and is evaluating the use of muscle stem cells for dysphagia rehabilitation.

Title Director, Center for Voice & Swallowing
Professor, Department of Otolaryngology

Specialty Otolaryngology (ENT/Ears, Nose, Throat), Laryngology

Department [Otolaryngology](#)

Division Head and Neck Surgery

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Education M.D., Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans LA 1994
M.P.H., Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans LA 1994
Ph.D., Tulane University Graduate School, New Orleans LA 1997
B.A., Vassar College, Poughkeepsie NY 1990



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Internships Otolaryngology, Tulane University, New Orleans LA 1995-1996

Residency Otolaryngology, Tulane University, New Orleans LA 1996-2000

Fellowships Laryngology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem NC 2000-2001

Board Certifications American Board of Otolaryngology

Professional Memberships American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Bronchoesophagological Association
American Laryngological Society
American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society
Dysphagia Research Society
Triological Society

Honors and Awards American Laryngological Presidential Citation Award, COSM, 2017
American Broncho-Esophagological Association Best Poster Presentation, COSM 2015, 2016
Dean's Team Award, for laryngeal transplant, 2011
Recipient, Dean's Team Award for Excellence in Clinical Care, for outstanding multi-disciplinary team contribution, 2011
The Honorable Mention Award for Clinical research, The American laryngological, Rhinological, and Otology Society, 2010

Select Recent Publications Evangelista L, Andrews T, Nativ-Zeltzer N, Nachalon Y, Kuhn M, Belafsky P. Association of Functional Outcomes in Tracheoesophageal Voicing With Intratracheal Pressures and Esophagram Findings. *JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2021 Dec 1;147(12):1065-1070. doi:10.1001/jamaoto.2021.2409. PMID:34529045.

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Cates DJ, Evangelista LM, Belafsky PC. Effect of Pretreatment Dysphagia on Postchemoradiation Swallowing Function in Head and Neck Cancer. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2021 May 4; 194:5998211009853. doi:10.1177/01945998211009853. Epub ahead of print. PMID:33940987.

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Nachalon Y, Nativ-Zeltzer N, Dhar SI, Mehdizadeh OB, Cassady AT, Belafsky PC. Esophageal A-ring is associated with the severity of gastroesophageal reflux. *Laryngoscope*. 2020 Apr;130(4):951-954. doi:10.1002/lary.28143. Epub 2019 Jun 14. PMID:31199518.

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Shen SC, Nachalon Y, Randall DR, Nativ-Zeltzer N, Belafsky PC. High elevation training mask as a respiratory muscle strength training tool for dysphagia. *Acta Otolaryngol*. 2019 Jun;139(6):536-540. doi:10.1080/00016489.2019.1605196. Epub 2019 Apr 29. PMID:31035838.



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Nativ-Zeltzer N, Rameau A, Kuhn MA, Kaufman M, Belafsky PC. The Relationship Between Hiatal Hernia and Cricopharyngeus Muscle Dysfunction. *Dysphagia*. 2019 Jun;34(3):391-396. doi: 10.1007/s00455-018-9950-3. Epub 2018 Nov 7. PMID:30406336.

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