

# 10 Ingenious Medical Treatments

various products to treat dysphagia (Courtesy of Empi Recovery Sciences)

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## 4. Electrical therapy for dysphagia

"[Dysphagia](#), or difficulty swallowing, is a sorely neglected medical condition that affects 15 million Americans," says Sara Oxtan of Empi Recovery Sciences (a manufacturer of medical products). "Dysphagia is caused by neurological disorders or disease, head or neck cancer, or even [Parkinson's](#). Patients need to re-learn how to swallow food, drinks, and medication." Empi created VitalStim Therapy, a non-invasive external stimulation device that Oxtan says helps "re-educate the swallowing muscles." Trained speech-language pathologists apply electrodes to the muscles of the throat, stimulating the muscles and promoting the swallowing reflex.

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