

## New Pill-Swallowing Cup Makes It Easier to Take Medicine

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Wrinkles and age spots aren't the only changes that happen to our bodies as we age. Changes also happen within our bodies - affecting the way we swallow medications.

“Normally, swallowing is a rapid and efficient action that requires less than two seconds to complete and one that all of us take for granted,” says Roger Heilos, president of Oralflo Technologies.

“We just expect our food to naturally find its way to our stomach without falling into our lungs and cutting off our breathing. After all, we have been doing it since birth and never had reason to give it a thought. But often, older people are at higher risk to have difficulty swallowing, especially when taking their much-needed daily medications,” he says.

Doctors refer to difficulty swallowing in general as dysphagia. Most sufferers report an uncomfortable feeling of food or medicine “stuck” in the throat or beneath the breastbone. Others may complain of choking or coughing after swallowing.

According to several studies, the elderly are particularly prone to develop dysphagia for several reasons. First, the prevalence of several diseases linked to dysphagia, including Alzheimer's disease and stroke. Advancing age also causes a deterioration of the swallowing function. In addition, several common drugs can induce dry mouth, making swallowing even more difficult.

“Often times, an older person ends up crushing up a pill in order to take it, which can reduce its effectiveness. Or “ even worse “ skipping the medication altogether,” says Heilos, a former medical products engineer for Johnson & Johnson. “That’s why I decided to develop a solution that helps.”

Designed for those with difficulty swallowing pills, the Oralflo Pill Swallowing Cup<sup>®</sup> is a breakthrough medical device. The cup alleviates the discomfort and anxiety associated with pill-taking and proves itself a vital accessory for doctor's offices, hospitals, group homes, day care centers and concerned family members.

The unique design of the Oralflo Pill Swallowing Cup also eliminates the need to cut and crush pills so they can be swallowed whole, which is required for time-released and coated pills. The cup is a professional healthcare product that is patent pending, trademarked and registered with the FDA as a Class III medical device. About Oralflo Technologies

In 2003, Roger Heilos established Oralflo Technologies, LLC as a result of his creation of the Oralflo Pill Swallowing Cup. Having seen members of his own family suffer the anguish of pill swallowing anxiety and realizing how frequently this problem occurs in children, adults, and the elderly, Heilos was inspired to bring out a product that has the potential to make the lives of so many pill-takers easier. Oralflo Technologies is located in Raritan, New Jersey.

BendWeekly Newslink: [www.oralflo.com](http://www.oralflo.com)

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