



Health and  
Social Care

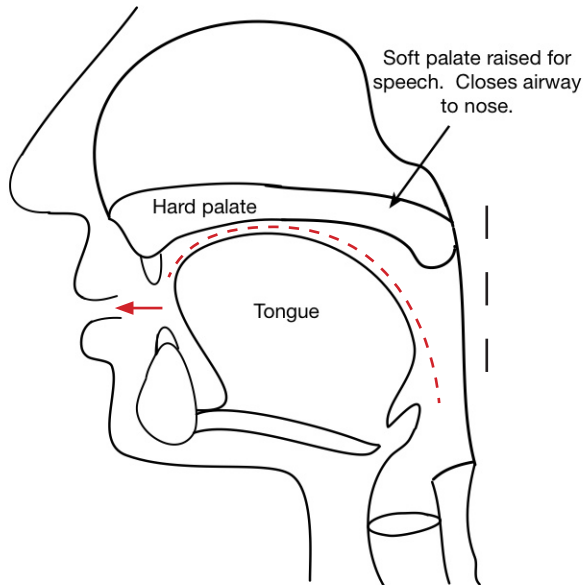


# Palatal Videofluoroscopy

## Speech & Language Therapy

## What is it?

A palatal videofluoroscopy is a moving image of your palate/ roof of your mouth. It allows us to see a side view of your soft palate as it moves.



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The soft palate should move up and down as you talk. It lifts against the back of your throat to direct the air through your mouth. The soft palate lifts for all speech sounds except for the nasal sounds, 'm', 'n', and 'ng'.

## Why do I need a palatal videofluoroscopy?

It is suspected that your soft palate may not be working as best as it can. If the palate does not work well, too much air escapes into your nose. This can result in a 'nasal' voice quality. It can also mean that some speech sounds are very difficult to learn.

Sometimes people who have palate problems get food/drink leaking into their nose.

## What will happen?

The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) will guide you through each step.

You will sit upright on a chair and the X-ray machine will be moved next to your head.

The SLT will tell you what to say. It is important that you sit still so the images are clear.

## Will it hurt?

No. None of the equipment will touch you.

The equipment makes some noise but this is not very loud.

## What will it show?

The X-ray will allow us to look at how your palate moves, how long it is, its shape and proportions. We will be looking to see if it is able to touch the back of your throat firmly.



## What will happen next?

After the X-ray, the SLT and the surgeon will look at the images together. When we have done this, the SLT will contact you to explain the results.

## Who can I ask if I have a question or concern?

If you have any queries about this clinic, you can call the Cleft Co-ordinator, Pamela Larmour, on 07385 430707. You can also email her on [pamela.larmour@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:pamela.larmour@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

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