



Health and
Social Care



Pharyngoplasty

Cleft Lip and Palate Service

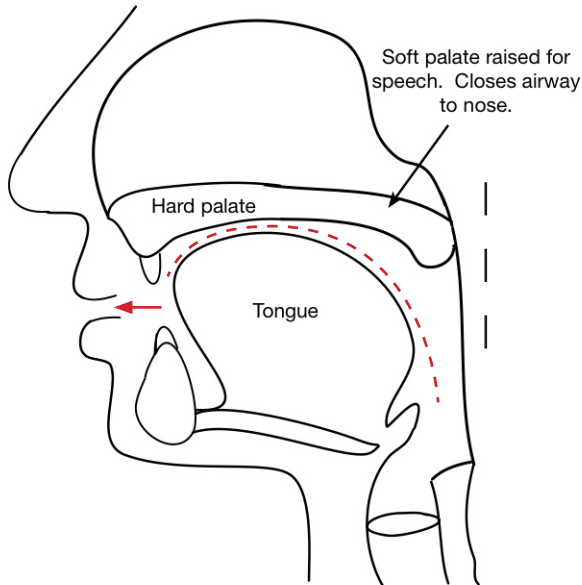
Why has my child been offered a pharyngoplasty?

Your child's soft palate is unable to lift up effectively to seal off their nose from their throat.

The soft palate should lift up and down against the back of the throat, sealing off the nose from the mouth.

When the soft palate lifts, the air from our lungs is directed through our mouths. We then use our tongue, lips and teeth to change this air into various shapes to make different speech sounds.

The soft palate also lifts when we eat. This means food/drink does not leak through our nose.



With kind permission from Cindy Williams, the Spire Cleft Centre

What is a pharyngoplasty?

The surgeon will reduce the space between the back of your child's throat and soft palate. They will use tissue already in the throat to reduce the gap.

How will this help my child?

Reducing the space between your child's palate and the back of the throat will help to reduce the air leaking through their nose. This aims to improve their speech and make their voice stronger.

If food/ drinks leak through your child's nose, this operation will also aim to prevent this.

Who can I contact if I am worried or have a question?

If you have any concerns or questions, you can call the Cleft Co-Ordinator, Pamela Larmour, on 07385 430707. She will be able to direct your question to the appropriate clinician. You can also email her on pamela.larmour@belfasttrust.hscni.net

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