



Health and  
Social Care



# Palate re-repair

## Cleft Lip and Palate Service

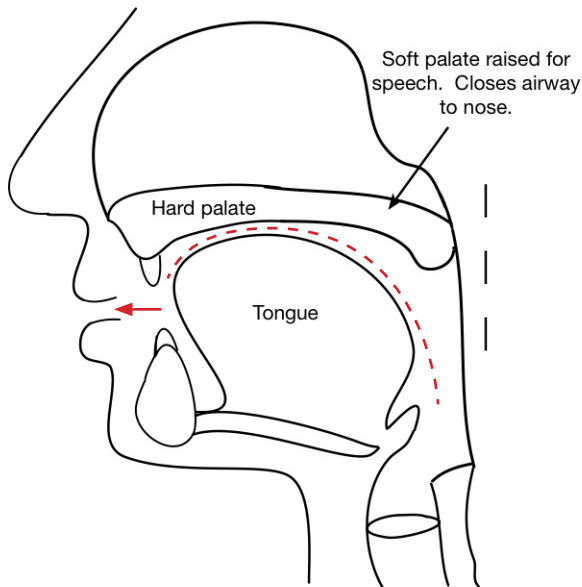
# Why has my child been offered a palate re-repair?

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 Spires Cleft Centre

## What is a palate re-repair?

Sometimes a palate is too short or does not move properly. In this operation, the surgeon will ensure the muscles of the palate are in the correct position so that they can move effectively. If your child's palate is too short, the surgeon will use existing tissue to make the palate longer.

## How will this help my child?

Improving the muscle position and length of the palate will allow it to lift up against the back of the throat more effectively. This means the palate will be able to separate the mouth from the nose, preventing unwanted air from leaking out of your child's 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](mailto:pamela.larmour@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

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