

Velopharyngeal Insufficiency: Diagnosis and Recommendation of Surgical Procedure

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Adequate velopharyngeal function is responsible for normal swallowing, respiration and intelligible speech. Patients with cleft lip and palate are at risk of velopharyngeal dysfunction (VPD). The differential diagnosis of VPD leads to differential management. A good understanding of assessment process helps the team to formulate a specific treatment plan and to measure outcomes.

Comprehensive assessment of velopharyngeal function starts from history taking , perceptual speech evaluation, intraoral examination, and followed by instrumental assessment. Based on these findings, speech pathologists suggest a patient-customized treatment plan for VPD. Treatment options range from nonsurgical management with speech therapy or a prosthesis to surgical approaches.