

If you have any questions, queries, or require more information, please contact the department:

Telephone: (01792) 703854

Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays)

8.30 am to 4.30 pm

An out-of-hours answering machine is available

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## Videofluoroscopy

(An x-ray to investigate  
how the palate works)

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### **What will happen at the appointment?**

You may be asked to see the speech and language therapist before the x-ray appointment. The therapist may carry out a brief speech assessment and will explain what will happen in the x-ray room.

If you are the parent or carer you can come into the x-ray room and stand next to your child, or your child may be able to sit on your lap. If you do, you will be asked to wear a lead jacket so you are protected from the x-ray. If your child is happy to have the x-ray without you there, you can stand behind a glass screen where you can still see your child. Please also be aware, other children are not allowed into the room where the x-ray happens.

The cleft surgeon, the speech and language therapists and the radiographer will be present in the x-ray room. During the x-ray you will be asked to sit or stand on a small step and to keep still; this prevents a blurred picture of the soft palate. You will then be asked by the speech and language therapist to say some sounds and sentences.

### **What happens after the videofluoroscopy?**

The recording from the videofluoroscopy will be discussed with you. The clinicians will examine the x-ray images and inform you of the results and treatment options.

### **Videofluoroscopy appointment**

A referral has been made for investigation of the soft palate (soft part of the roof of the mouth) and how it moves. This leaflet has been designed to help you understand the process a little better.

### **How long will the appointment take?**

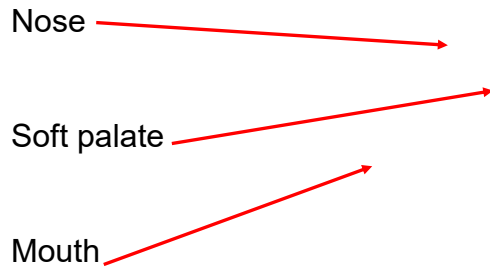
The x-ray will only last a few minutes, but the appointment will last around 20 minutes to allow for setting up the x-ray and discussion.

### **What is a videofluoroscopy?**

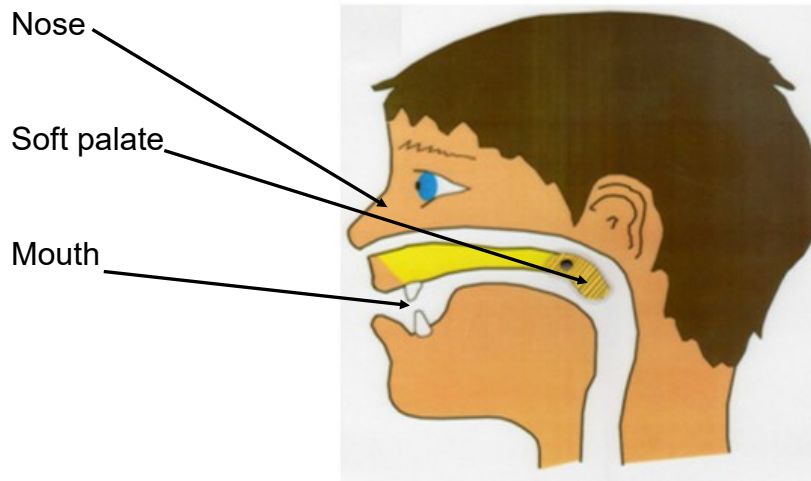
A videofluoroscopy is a low dosage x-ray, which will help us to see how the soft palate moves upwards and backwards when talking. It can also show if the pharynx (back of the throat) moves forward and inward to help close off the nose so that air cannot escape during speech. All of these movements are recorded and can be played back to you.

**If you are pregnant, or think you could be pregnant, please let us know before the appointment.**

The videofluoroscopy image will look a little like this:



A drawing of the above image:



(Images from Harland and Bowden 1997)

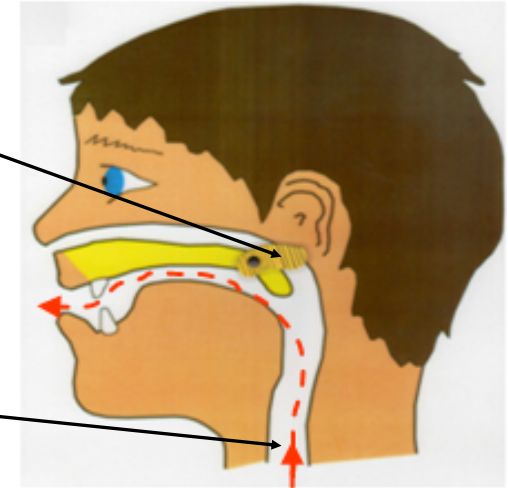
The picture on the x-ray will show the following:

### Oral speech

Soft palate working well enough to close off the nose to stop air escaping.

Soft palate closing

Airflow from lungs



### Nasal speech

Soft palate not working well enough to close off the nose so air escapes.

Soft palate not closing

