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Management of Velopharyngeal Incompetence in A 5year Old Patient With Palatal Lift Prosthesis Retained By A Palatal Bar: A Case Report

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Abstract:

Speech is the act of expressing or describing thoughts, feelings, or perceptions by the articulation of words. It is not only the physical and esthetic correction that is necessary for the overall wellbeing of an individual but also the functional and psychological correction. Velopharyngeal incompetence is a contributing factor causing speech disorders. Velopharyngeal dysfunctions jeopardize the individual's communication skill as the speech becomes completely atypical. The constant communication between the oral and nasal cavities affects speech comprehension, produces hypernasality, compensatory articulation and nasal air emission. Prosthetic treatment choice is a rehabilitative procedure employing a palatal lift prosthesis (PLP) to recover diminished speech function. PLP combined with a palatal bar is a superior rehabilitative speech appliance that should offer stability, retention, ease in fabrication and adjustment. This case report is an attempt to describe the clinical and laboratory steps to fabricate a palatal lift prosthesis with a palatal bar in a 5 year old patient.

Keywords: Velopharyngeal incompetence, palatal lift prosthesis, speech, hypernasality.

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