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Assessment and management of velopharyngeal insufficiency

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Abstract :

Velopharyngeal insufficiency is the most common velopharyngeal dysfunction in young children. It is defined by an incomplete closure of the velopharyngeal sphincter, resulting from a damage of the anatomical structures. The severity of the disorder is variable and makes the patient's speech sometimes unintelligible.

The assessment performed by the surgeon aims to determine a precise treatment plan in consultation with the orthodontists, the speech therapists, the patient and his family.

At the same time, the speech therapy assessment will aim to assess the patient's phonation, i.e. to evaluate the severity of the disorder and to note the impact of this velar insufficiency on his intelligibility. The repercussions on the patient's quality of life will be decisive in deciding whether to have corrective surgery and/or speech and language therapy. Therefore, it is essential that the various actors involved work together to ensure effective treatment of the disorder.

A summary of cleft surgery, the patient's history, the patient's voice and phonation will be proposed and then the main axes of speech therapy will be presented.