LIFTING PALATE PROSTHESIS

Lopes MMW***, Whitaker ME, Pegoraro-Krook MI, Dutka JCR, Aferri HC, Almeida ALPF
Hospital de Reabilitação de Anomalias Craniofaciais - HRAC-USP, Bauru/SP

PURPOSE(S): Offer knowledge about the process of speech rehabilitation using palate prosthesis and pharyngeal obturators on patients with velopharyngeal incompetence and design a possibility of variation on the pharyngeal bulb form. EXPERIENCE REPORT: Three patients with complaints about intraoral low pressure speech and hypervasality were rehabilitated with palate prosthesis with the active portion acting as an auxiliary instrument to elevate the soft palate flaccid muscle and this way favoring the velopharyngeal valve occlusion during the emission of oral phonemes. The production procedure of the lifting prosthesis is realized with the progressive thickness increase of the active portion of the prosthesis without injuring the tissue and having its effectiveness tested by a speech therapist exam. CONCLUSION: The speech rehabilitation of the patient with the velopharyngeal incompetence must be realized with an interdisciplinary work between the speech therapy and dentistry resulting in the appropriate help to the speech.