

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VELOPHARYNX IN INDIVIDUALS WITH VELOPHARYNGEAL DYSFUNCTION OBSERVED ON VIDEOFLUOROSCOPY

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OBJECTIVES: to describe the velopharyngeal function in speech and the nasopharyngeal depth (NPD) and velar length (VL) ratio of individuals with velopharyngeal dysfunction (VPD). **MATERIAL AND METHODS:** A retrospective study of 91 cases with velopharyngeal dysfunction with or without cleft palate, of both genders (mean 15 years) submitted to videofluoroscopy in lateral and frontal views. On lateral view were analyzed the soft palate movement, posterior pharyngeal wall (PPW) and tongue while the front view has been observed the lateral pharyngeal walls movement (LPW). The NPD/VL ratio was obtained by dividing the values of NPD by VL. **RESULTS:** 5.49% (n=5) had no movement of the soft palate, 40.65% (n=37) with movement at the level of palatal plane (PL), 14.28% (n=13) with movement above the PL, 25.27% (n=23) with movement below of the PL and 14.28% (n=13) with a little movement. Of the 91 cases, 27.47% (n=25) had Passavant's ridge and in 96% of them (n=24) it was below PL. The movement of the tongue was observed in 82 cases, 2.43% (n=2) of them with tongue contact with the PPW, 1.21% (n=1) with retraction of the tongue towards the PPW, 17.07% (n=14) with support of the tongue against the soft palate and 79.26% (n=65) with normal movement. From 91 cases, 25.27% (n=23) had no movement of LPW while 74.75% (n=68) had movement of LPW and 2.94% of them (n=2) were asymmetric and 97.05% (n=66) of them were symmetric. The NPD/VL ratio was above normal standards in 60.43% (n=55) and within the normal standards in 39.56% (n=36). **CONCLUSIONS:** The majority of the individuals with VPD had good soft palate movement, little movement of PPW, presence of movement of LPW, normal displacement of the tongue and NPD/VL ratio increased.