

### How can I prepare my child?

- Explain what will happen during the procedure
- Show him/her the video in the link, or QR code.
- Remind your child to keep still during the procedure.
- Practise counting 1 to 10 with your child, and get him/her to repeat the words and sentences given by the ST (e.g., See if you can spot the spider).

### Important information

- Contact the Cleft and Craniofacial Centre (CCRC) to reschedule the appointment if your child is unwell.
- The procedure will take place at the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging (DDII), Children's Tower, Level 1 (within the Admissions Office).
- Register 30 minutes before your child's appointment time for a brief medical check.
- Wear pants with pockets (for the microphone's battery box).
- Remove any head/neck accessories (e.g., earrings) for the procedure.
- No fasting is required for the procedure.
- MediSave may be used to offset the cost of the procedure.
- Scan the QR code below to watch a video explaining the procedure.



<https://tinyurl.com/SpeechVFKKH>

For appointment enquiries, contact the Cleft and Craniofacial Centre, Women's Tower, Level 5

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**Website:** [tinyurl.com/KKHCCRC](https://tinyurl.com/KKHCCRC)



## Speech Videofluoroscopy (Speech X-Ray)



### Useful telephone number

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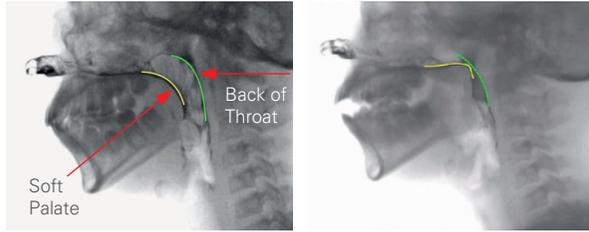
[www.facebook.com/kkh.sg](https://www.facebook.com/kkh.sg)

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PATIENTS. AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.®

### What is a Speech Videofluoroscopy?

A speech videofluoroscopy is a moving X-ray that allows us to see how well the muscles in your child's mouth and throat move when your child talks.



Soft Palate at rest

Soft Palate raised during speech

### What is the purpose of a Speech Videofluoroscopy?

If your child's speech has a 'nasal' quality (too much air vibrating in the nose), it may be a sign that the soft palate is not moving well against the back of the throat, to separate the mouth from the nose when he/she talks. Sometimes, food and drink can also go up into the nose. This procedure allows the Plastic Surgeon and Speech Therapist (ST) to study the way the soft palate and throat muscles move during speech. This will help them decide on the best treatment for your child's speech difficulties.

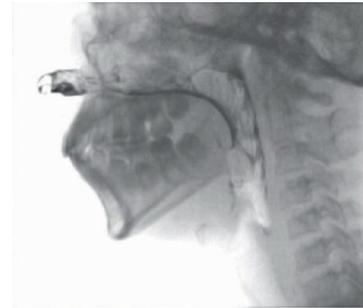
If your child has had surgery to correct the position of the soft palate or throat muscles, this procedure may be repeated one year after the surgery. This allows the Surgeon and ST to check how successful the surgery was.

### What will happen during a Speech Videofluoroscopy?

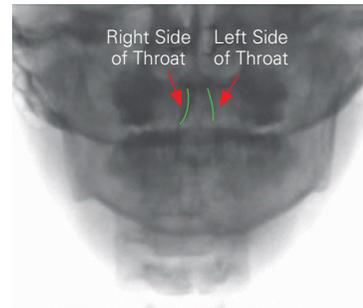
A Radiographer and ST will carry out the procedure. A small amount of barium sulphate suspension (white liquid) will be put into your child's nose to outline the soft palate and throat muscles on the X-Ray images.

Your child will be asked to stand in front of, and lie down on the couch of an X-Ray (Fluoroscopic) machine. Your child needs to keep very still and will be asked to count and repeat some words after the ST.

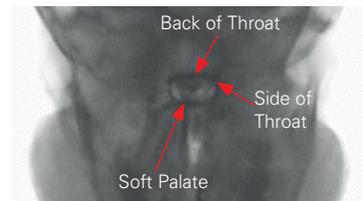
The fluoroscopy will be recorded in three views. This allows the soft palate and throat muscles to be seen from different angles.



View 1: From the side



View 2: From the front



View 3: From the top

### How long does the procedure take?

The fluoroscopy, taken intermittently, should take approximately 5 to 10 minutes. The appointment may last about 30 to 45 minutes to allow setting up for different views/angles.

### What happens next?

When the procedure is over, the ST will review the fluoroscopy recording with you. Your child **may be** referred for a speech nasendoscopy (a scope with a camera) that gives a different view of how the soft palate and throat muscles move during speech. An appointment will be made for your child to see the Plastic Surgeon to discuss the results and treatment suggestions that may be required.

### Are there any risks or side effects?

- Very rarely, some children may have allergic reactions to the barium sulphate (e.g., trouble breathing, swelling, hives). If your child has a known history of allergy to barium sulphate, please tell your ST before the procedure.
- While there will be exposure to radiation, exposure is minimal. Caregivers will be given a lead apron to wear for protection. Pregnant women and other children are not allowed into the X-Ray room.
- There may be a slight discolouration of stools due to barium leaving your child's body.
- In rare situations, aspiration of barium sulphate may occur.