Diagnostic Measures for Velopharyngeal Function
SIG 5

INTRODUCTION

This Perspectives activity highlights two articles with objective measures for both evaluation and treatment of velopharyngeal dysfunction. The first article discusses the palatal closure efficiency (PaCE) index. This is an aerodynamic tool used to estimate the velopharyngeal opening during certain speech contexts. This is done by measuring a percentage of change between nasal and oral cognates of an individual. The second article describes the nasometer in depth, highlighting its use as an evaluation and treatment tool for decreasing hypernasality. It goes into further detail on the differences between hypernasality and measured nasalance, highlighting both strengths and limitations of the nasalance score.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:
- summarize how the PaCE index uses velopharyngeal (VP) area measurements to describe closure efficiency and the advantages of the PaCE index relative to interpreting pressure-flow findings
- describe the interpretation, benefits, and limitations of nasalance scores

CONTENTS

The Palatal Closure Efficiency Index: A New Speaker-Centered Aerodynamic Metric for the Evaluation of Velopharyngeal Function During Speech by David J. Zajac, Juliana Powell, and Laura Perotta

The Use of the Nasometer and Interpretation of Nasalance Scores by Thomas Watterson

PROGRAM HISTORY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Start date: September 14, 2021
End date: September 14, 2026

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the learning assessment on or before September 14, 2026.

This course is offered for 0.15 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).