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## Factors contributing to the horizontalization of the palatal processes

■ Turgor in the palatal processes

- Movements of the tongue primitive swallowing- allowing tongue to move out of the way
- Downward and forward growth of lower jaw complex – providing space for the secondary palate
- Straightening of the cranial base providing mechanical conditions for horizontalization





## Factors contributing to the successful fusion of the secondary palate: the medial edge epithelium (MEE)

 Apoptosis of MEE surface cells immediately prior to fusion

- Development of temporary glycoprotein membrane coating, enabling adhesion between MEE cells of opposing palatal processes
- Successful removal of MEE from fusion line







