Facial and palatal development

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Timeline for development

Pharyngeal arches

External face

Primary palate

Secondary palate

Completion of soft palate

Decrease of severity of potential congenital malformations

Contributions to the external face

- Periprosencephalon: ectoderm and mostly neural crest-derived mesenchyme surrounding the forebrain. Frontonasal process.
- First pharyngeal (mandibular) arch. Mandibular and maxillary processes.
In perisencephalon cells from anterior neural fold and neural crest from midbrain.

Oropharyngeal membrane (buccopharyngeal, oral)

Membrane is composed of ectoderm and endoderm.
Disintegration of oropharyngeal membrane

Communication between foregut and amniotic cavity at approximately 4 weeks of development

Stomodeum at 4 weeks

Facial processes (prominences)

Bilaterally:
- Lateral nasal
- Medial nasal
- Maxillary
- Mandibular
Dimensional changes (4-6 wks)

10-fold linear increase in size!

Face development – animation 2
Merging
Differential mesenchymal proliferation. Elimination of groove.

Merging with epithelial inclusion
May result in facial cleft.
May be normal between LNP and maxillary process where enclosed epithelium gives rise to part of nasolacrimal duct epithelium.

Nasolacrimal duct between maxillary and lateral nasal processes
Sites of potential facial clefts

Fusion
Contact and fusion of epithelium-covered surfaces. Removal of epithelium

Fusion in primary and secondary palate development
Fate of fused epithelium

- Non-proliferating epithelium in rapidly growing environment: passive stretch and incorporation in nearby surface epithelia
- Apoptosis and phagocytosis
- Epithelial-mesenchymal transformation

Development of nose

Initial fusion of medial and lateral nasal processes, and subsequently between medial nasal and maxillary processes.
Disappearance of epithelium in fusion line.

All epithelium in fusion line is removed except oronasal membrane (ectoderm-ectoderm).
Oronasal membrane

Breaks down at about 6 wks of development.

Primary (primitive) palate

Primary palate composed of intermaxillary segment of merged MNP's and the rostral tips of the maxillary processes. P: primary (primitive) choana permitting oro-nasal communication

Development of primary and secondary palate

Secondary palate development
Intrinsic factors in the successful development of the secondary palate:

- Increase in size of palatal processes

  - Mesenchymal cell proliferation – ceases hours before palatal processes become horizontal
  - ECM production increasing volume of palatal processes
  - Hydration of ECM – major increase in volume and turgor just prior to horizontalization

Secondary palate development

Palatal processes develop on the oral surfaces of the maxillary processes: initially vertically oriented, they assume horizontal orientation during eighth week of development.

Horizontalization of palatal processes
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

Fate of MEE cells: apoptosis (TUNEL reaction above) and phagocytosis

Non-proliferating epithelium in rapidly growing environment: passive stretch and incorporation in nearby surface epithelia
PLACODES
Localized thickened areas of specialized ectoderm, lateral to the neural crest, at the border between neural plate and the future epidermis.
Location of placodes

- Near forebrain:
  - Olfactory placode
  - Lens placode

- Dorsolateral:
  - Otic placode: related to (= evolved from or having common origin with) lateral line system
Development of organs of special sense

![Diagram of Development of Organs of Special Sense](image)

- Surface epithelium
- Neural crest
- Neural tube
- Pharynx
- Neural crest sensory ganglia

![Diagram of Development of Organs of Special Sense](image)

- Invagination
- Delamination
- Lens
- Otic vesicle
- Neural crest
- Epibranchial
- Lateral line
- Neuromere

![Diagram of Development of Organs of Special Sense](image)

- Optic vesicle
- Lens placode
- Neural crest
- Dorsal and epibranchial placodes
- Aorta
- Pharynx

Classification of placodes

1. Sensory placodes
2. Dorsal and epibranchial placodes
Branchiomeric nerves: origins and axon projection patterns