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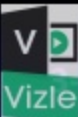
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Esophageal Phase :

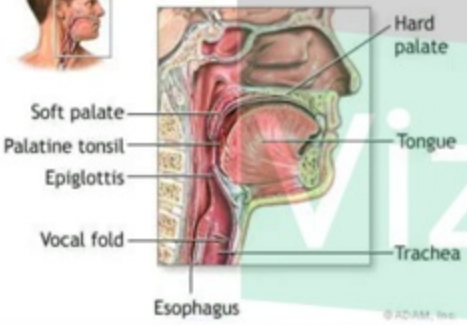
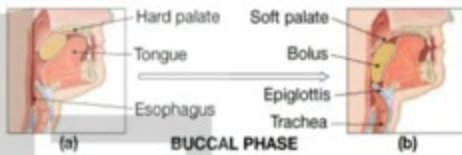
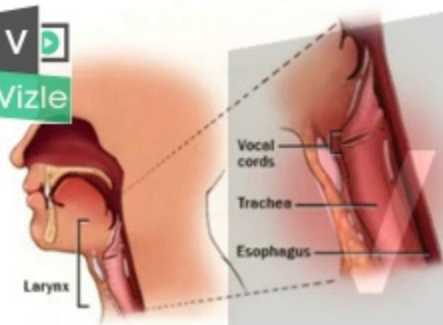
Initiated when bolus approaches the esophagus

(i) The UOS (Cricopharyngeus) has high resting tone; relaxes for 1 second → bolus enters the esophagus and propelled down by :

- a- effect of gravity
- b- peristaltic wave :

contraction above followed by relaxation below (vagal activity through the intrinsic nerve plexuses)

Bolus → tension receptors → afferent fibers (vagus) → vagal center (medulla) → efferent fibers (vagus) → muscle contraction → propels the bolus down (vago-vagal reflex)





Control of Swallowing :

Swallowing is co ordinated in the brain stem (medulla & pons) & the brain's frontal lobe. Acting through fifth, seventh, ninth, tenth & twelvth cranial nerves.

Sensory fibers → 5th, 9th & 10th

Motor fibers → 5th, 7th, 9th,
10th, 12th



The essential function of the esophagus is to transfer solids and liquids from the pharynx to the stomach.

- It occasionally functions to transfer gas (eructation) and gastric contents (vomiting) from stomach to mouth.
- It has no storage function (it empties and collapses after food pass to the stomach).
- It does not have any digestive or absorptive functions.
- It's only secretion is mucous → *lubricants for the food bolus as it passes to the stomach.*



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