

## Palatal rugae

\*\*\* The **primary** support areas of the maxillary complete denture are the **residual ridges** (*the maxillary and palatine bones*).

**Important:** In the **mandibular arch**, the primary support area is the **buccal shelf** because of its bone structure and its right angle relationship to the occlusal plane. Proper extension into this area is necessary to more widely distribute the load of mastication. The residual ridges if large and broad can also be considered as the primary support areas.

Limiting structures of the **maxillary** denture:

- In the **anterior region**: the **labial vestibule**, which extends from the right buccal frenum to the left; laterally, from the right and left **buccal vestibules** extending in the posterior aspect on each side to the right and left **hamular notches**, respectively.
- The **posterior limit**: the distal end of the denture should extend at least to the vibrating line. In most instances it should end 1 to 2 mm posterior to the vibrating line.

The **vibrating line** is an imaginary line drawn across the palate that marks the beginning of motion in the soft palate when an individual says “ah”. It extends from one hamular notch to the other. At the midline, it usually passes about 2 mm in front of the fovea palatinae.

**Remember:**

- The **secondary peripheral** seal area for a **mandibular** complete denture is the **anterior lingual border**
- If you are fabricating a **mandibular** complete denture for a patient with a **knife-edge ridge**, you need maximal extension of the denture to help **distribute the forces of occlusion** over a larger area

**Important:** The most important factor for providing retention for complete dentures is the **peripheral seal**.