

Treatment and Follow-Up for a Cleft Lip

Birth to School Age



Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Program

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2345 • 1-888-300-3088
www.bcchildrens.ca

These steps outline the usual treatment and follow-up plans. The Cleft Palate/ Craniofacial program will contact you to make arrangements for these assessments, unless otherwise stated.

A baby born with a cleft lip should be referred to the Cleft Palate & Craniofacial Program as soon as possible after birth for program coordination and family education.

Nursing Consultation & Follow-up at birth:

You and your family will learn about and get support for diagnosis, feeding, and treatment plans. This happens during a visit or by telephone. Nursing consultation is available to the family on an on-going basis.

Orthodontic Evaluation within the first 2 weeks:

The cleft is assessed and, if needed, your baby is fitted for an orthodontic appliance. Orthodontic follow-up is arranged with the Orthodontist.

Plastic Surgeon Consultation at 4-6 weeks of age:

The surgeon assesses the cleft and begins planning for surgery. The plastic surgeon's office will contact you directly with a consultation appointment.

Pre-Admission Clinic Consultation 4 weeks before lip repair surgery:

An anesthetist and a nurse will make sure that your baby is ready to have an anesthetic and surgery.

Cleft Lip Surgery at approximately 3 – 4 months of age:

This is a 1-2 night hospital stay. The plastic surgeon's office will notify you of the surgery date for your child.

Plastic Surgery Follow-up Appointment:

This happens 6 weeks after lip repair surgery. This may be done in the family's own community as directed by the surgeon.

Cleft Palate Team Assessment at 3 years of age:

The team includes staff from nursing, pediatrics, plastic surgery & orthodontics. This is a 1 - 2 day out-patient visit.

Cleft Lip & Nose Revision Surgery (if appropriate):

This happens before your child starts school.

Cleft Palate Team Assessment at 5 years of age (if appropriate):

This assessment includes visits with plastic surgery & orthodontics. This is a 1 - 2 day out-patient visit.

Notes: _____

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Cleft Palate Program 604-875-3146
Nurse Clinician: (604) 875-2345 local 7057.
Toll free: 1-888-300-3088