

# Treatment and Follow-Up for a Cleft Lip

## Birth to School Age



## Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Program

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4  
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[www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca)

**T**hese 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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **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