

# Treatment and Follow-Up for a Cleft Lip



## Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Program

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

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### Birth to School Age

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 as soon as possible after birth for care coordination and family education.

### Newborn Nursing Consultation and 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 ongoing basis.

### Orthodontic Evaluation - Within the first two weeks:

The cleft lip is assessed and, if needed, your baby is fitted for an orthodontic appliance/nostril splinting and lip taping. Follow-up visits are arranged with the orthodontist.

### Plastic Surgeon Consultation at 4-6 weeks of age:

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

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

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

### Cleft Lip Surgery at approximately 4-6 months of age:

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

### Plastic Surgery Follow-Up Appointment:

This happens 6 weeks after the cleft lip repair. This may be done in your own community as directed by the surgeon.

### Cleft Palate Team Assessment at two years of age:

This assessment happens at BC Children's Hospital and includes visits with a pediatrician or a nurse practitioner, speech and language pathologist, plastic surgeon, otolaryngologist and dentistry. This is a two day outpatient visit.

### Regular Team follow-up as directed by team members.

### For Questions/Concerns, please contact:

Cleft Palate Program: 604-875-3146

Nurse Clinician: 604-875-2345 local 7057

Toll Free: 1-888-300-3088

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