

Treatment and Follow-Up for a Cleft Palate



Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Program

4480 Oak Street,
Vancouver BC, V6H 3V4

www.bcchildrens.ca

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 palate should be referred as soon as possible after birth for program 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 on-going basis.

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.

Cleft Palate Team Assessment at 9-10 months of age:

This appointment happens at BC Children's Hospital and includes time with a pediatrician or nurse practitioner, an audiologist, a speech language pathologist, and otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat – ENT). This is a 1-2 day outpatient visit.

Pre-admission Clinic Consultation:

An anesthetist and nurse make sure that your baby is ready to have anesthetic and surgery. This visit may happen at the same time as the Cleft Palate Team assessment above.

Cleft Palate and Middle Ear Tube Surgery at approximately 9-12 months of age (or as directed by the plastic surgeon):

This is usually a 2-3 night hospital stay. The plastic surgeon's office will notify you of the date of surgery for your child.

Plastic Surgery, Audiology, and Otolaryngology (ENT) recheck:

This happens 6-8 weeks after cleft palate and middle ear tube surgery. The recheck may be done in the family's own community as directed by your child's surgeon(s).

Cleft Palate Team Assessment at two years of age:

This assessment happens at BC Children's Hospital and includes visits with a pediatrician or nurse practitioner, speech and language pathology, plastic surgery, and otolaryngology. 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

Email: cpalate@cw.bc.ca

Nurse Clinician: 604-875-2345 local 7057

Email: cpalatenurses@cw.bc.ca

Toll Free: 1-888-300-3088

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