

Nostril Splinting before Surgery for Newborns with Cleft Lip Nasal Deformity



Cleft Palate Program

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What is cleft lip nasal deformity?

Some babies with cleft lip and palate also have a very flattened nostril(s). This flattening is called a cleft lip nasal deformity. Some babies benefit from treatment called pre-surgical nostril splinting. Your surgeon and the team orthodontist will discuss this with you if your baby is one who may benefit from this treatment.

What is pre-surgical nostril splinting?

It is a small soft wire splint that holds up the flat nostril. If your baby has a bilateral cleft lip & palate then a splint will be made for both nostrils. The splint helps reshape and support the nostril. It is then easier to repair during the first lip and nose surgery.

How is the splint made?

The orthodontist makes the splint when your baby is used to wearing the orthodontic plate - about 2 weeks after the plate was fitted.

The soft wire nose splints attach to the plate. The orthodontist will show you how to put the plate with the splints in place. The splint should be comfortable and your baby should get used to it in a few days.

The orthodontist will check the fit weekly at first and then every 2 weeks until the surgery.

How long must baby wear the nostril splint?

Your baby should wear the nostril splint until the first lip and nose surgery - about 3 months. The orthodontist will remove the splints from the plate a few days before the surgery.

Is there any special care for the splints?

Remove the plate and splints once or twice a day and gently clean with a soft toothbrush and water.

Questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you have suggestions that can help other parents, please contact us. We can be reached at:

Cleft Palate Program: 604-875-3146

**Nurse Clinician:
604-875-2345 local 7057**

Toll free: 1-888-300-3088

Orthodontist Name:

Phone #: -----

Notes: