

Treatment and Follow-up for a Cleft Palate

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 palate should be referred to the Cleft Palate & Craniofacial Program as soon as possible after birth for program coordination and family education.

Newborn 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 (if the cleft involves the hard palate):

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.

Cleft Palate Team Assessment at 8-9 months of age:

The team includes staff from nursing, pediatrics, audiology (hearing), speech & language pathology, plastic surgery, orthodontics & otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat). This is a 2 day out-patient visit.

Pre-Admission Clinic Consultation:

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

Cleft Palate & Middle Ear Tube Surgery at approximately 9-12 months of age (or as directed by the 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 & Otolaryngology (ENT) recheck:

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

Cleft Palate Team Assessment at 18 months of age:

This assessment includes visits with nursing, pediatrics, audiology, speech & language pathology, plastic surgery & otolaryngology. This is a 2 day out-patient visit.

Regular Team follow-up at 3 & 5 years of age: Or as directed by team members.

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