



A Guide to Cleft Lip and Palate Repair

Prenatal
Consultation with a specialist



Birth to 4 Months

Presurgical orthopedics (if needed)

Feeding evaluations to ensure proper growth and weight gain, as needed.



3-4 Months

Cleft lip repair

9 to 12 Months

Cleft palate repair

In anticipation of speech and language development, or prior to learning many words.



18 to 24 Months

Begin to evaluate developing speech abilities

After 24 months, we'll evaluate speech regularly until skills reach typical range.

3 to 5 Years

Additional speech surgeries

In some cases, we might recommend surgery to correct velopharyngeal function for children who have hypernasality (too much sound or air through the nose for speech). Velopharyngeal function allows children to produce oral air pressure for accurate speech sounds.

Ongoing orthodontic evaluations

Until facial growth is complete.



4 to 6 Years

Follow-up nasal repair

This is the youngest a nasal repair would be considered for a patient. Nasal repairs are often performed later in life. The procedure might not be necessary, depending on the decision of the family and recommendation of the surgeon.



7 to 11 Years

Alveolar (gum line) bone graft

This might be necessary for teeth to grow properly, depending on the recommendations of the surgeon or orthodontist.



Teens

Le Fort procedure (if needed)

If the patient has misalignment or slowed growth of the teeth or jaw, this surgery repositions the upper jaw to a more optimal position.



Any Age

Cleft lip revisions

These can take place when needed, depending on the preference of the family and recommendation of the surgeon.

