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

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.

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.

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.