

# Partners **in** Care Journal

Continuing Dialogue Between Primary and Specialty Care

JULY 2018



## FEATURED

**Comprehensive Craniofacial  
Treatment at Gillette:  
What Sets Us Apart**  
*By Robert Wood, MD*

**Send Your Patient to the  
Region's Experts in Cleft Lip  
and Palate Treatment**  
*By Paul Lim, MD*

*Robert Wood, MD*





## Comprehensive Craniofacial Treatment at Gillette: **What Sets Us Apart**

*By Robert Wood, MD*

When discussing why you should send your patients with craniofacial anomalies to Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, I find it's best to be honest.

We are a smaller pediatric facility that isn't part of a larger hospital system. We don't see the volume of patients that you see at other institutions in the metro and greater Minnesota, and we also don't provide primary care.

What we do is provide highly specialized care for a variety of specific conditions. Because we've refined the scope of our focus, we've picked the things we wanted to be good at and gotten very good at them. In terms of craniofacial care, this includes treating complex diagnoses, like cleft lip and palate and craniosynostosis, which require one or more surgeries. But we also see many children with conditions, like plagiocephaly and torticollis, which can often be corrected with orthotics or therapy.

In short, you should send your patients to us because we're the best in our region. We can provide your patients with the best quality of care available, period.

The assembly of our team and program was done scrupulously and thoughtfully over the years. Every member of our staff, from our pediatric plastic surgeons to our dentists, orthodontists, speech-language pathologists, nurse practitioners,

anesthesiologists and intensivists, were hand-picked and have above-average training in their respective fields.

Whether treatment begins in infancy or early childhood, our goal is to improve your patient's physical health and appearance. We're adequately staffed to do it all under one roof. Seeing that we also have a variety of clinics throughout the metro and greater Minnesota, we can also schedule follow-up appointments closer to your patient's home, often via virtual care.

We're here as a resource to work with you to get your patient the most optimal level of care possible. If our own assessment of the care we provide seems bold, frankly, it is. But our central focus has always been the well-being of our patients. We believe that we can do the most to transform their lives and reach their potential.

If you have a patient with craniofacial issues, I strongly encourage you to give us a call.

Thank you,  
Robert Wood

**For more information about care at Gillette, or to learn how you can refer your patients, please call 651-325-2200 or 855-325-2200 (toll-free).**



*Walker came to Gillette when he was 2 months old with complex, abnormal head shape. Diagnosed with metopic, partial sagittal, bilateral squamosal and coronal craniosynostosis, he underwent surgery at 4 months of age. Robert Wood, MD, pediatric craniofacial and plastic surgeon, and Peter Kim, MD, pediatric neurosurgeon, performed the surgery in less than one hour and, due to Wood's innovative blood conservation techniques, without a blood transfusion.*



## Send Your Patient to the Region's Experts in Cleft Lip and Palate Treatment

*By Paul Lim, MD*

For each child I see as a patient, I ask myself what I would recommend if the child were one of my own.

I then provide the care within my expertise that flows from my answer back to that question.

With this in mind, if one of my children had a cleft lip and palate, I would insist that he or she be seen and treated by an experienced cleft team led by surgeons who are board-certified specifically in plastic surgery. If you send your patient to Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, you can rest assured that's exactly who they'll see.

Year after year, our team performs more than half of all of the cleft lip and cleft palate repair procedures in the Twin Cities. That said, we are one of the only comprehensive facilities in Minnesota which can confirm that board-certified plastic surgeons exclusively perform the operations.

When you send your patient to Gillette, they will have access to the region's top experts in cleft lip and palate treatment. They'll be cared for by highly skilled surgeons and specialists who also perform research and develop the latest craniofacial techniques.

Our comprehensive diagnostic and treatment plans can start immediately after a child's birth or

whenever you first see your patient (in the case of some international adoptions or older children who may require cleft lip or palate repair or other subsequent related procedures). Gillette also offers prenatal consultations with expecting parents who know their child has a craniofacial issue. We'll help guide your patient's family through the treatments needed as their child grows and develops, and coordinate with you all along the way.

To ensure that your patient will have state-of-the-art aesthetic and functional outcomes, our care teams bring together multiple specialists including:

- Craniofacial and plastic surgery
- Dentistry and orthodontia
- Otolaryngology
- Speech and language pathology
- Neurosurgery
- Audiology
- Social work
- Child life

At Gillette, we provide your patients with world-class cleft care here in the Twin Cities metro. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Thank you for entrusting us with your patients. We will continue to honor that trust.

Paul Lim

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## On-Site Services for Plagiocephaly and Torticollis

In addition to treating babies, children and adolescents who have complex craniofacial issues such as craniosynostosis or cleft lip and palate, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare's craniofacial team also serves patients who have conditions that may not require surgery. Each year we see thousands of patients diagnosed with plagiocephaly (flat head syndrome) and torticollis. Babies with plagiocephaly are fitted with a custom-made helmet called the Gillette CranioCap® orthosis, which when worn approximately 23 hours a day for two to three months, can painlessly round the head over time. Because more than half of babies who have plagiocephaly also have torticollis, we also offer physical therapy appointments. Families can receive services for both plagiocephaly and torticollis at our St. Paul main campus or any of our outpatient clinics in the Twin Cities metro area.



# Partners in Care Journal

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*Partners in Care Journal* is a publication of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

Direct comments and questions to  
AndreasOAarsvold@gillettechildrens.com.

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare provides specialized health care for people who have short-term or long-term disabilities that began during childhood. We help children, adults and their families improve their health, achieve greater well-being and enjoy life.

To refer a patient,  
call 651-325-2200  
855-325-2200 (toll-free)  
gillettechildrens.org



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## EDUCATION AND EVENTS FOR PROVIDERS

### Partners in Care Webinar Series



Wednesday, September 12  
Noon

Maddie Gagnon, MD

*Back-to-School with Complex  
Medical Needs*



Thursday, October 25  
Noon

Alison Schiffern, MD

*Idiopathic Clubfeet - Diagnosis, the Ponseti  
Technique and Early Management*

### Medical Conferences

Friday, December 7

7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saint Paul RiverCentre

*Musculoskeletal Management in Pediatrics Conference*

Visit the website to register  
[gillettechildrens.org/cme](http://gillettechildrens.org/cme)