



Unilateral Cleft Lip and Palate

North West England, the Isle of Man and North Wales
Cleft Lip and Palate Network

Congratulations on the birth of your baby.

In the North West of England, the Isle of Man and North Wales, the care of children born with a cleft lip and/or a cleft palate is managed by a team of specialists. You will meet many of these people during the course of your child's treatment.

Clefts of the lip and/or palate affect about 1 in 700 children born in this country. Sometimes they are inherited but often happen for no obvious reason.

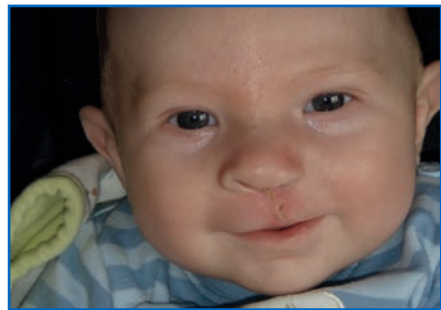
What is a cleft lip and palate?

A unilateral cleft lip and palate is a gap in the upper lip, base of the nose, gum and palate on one side of the mouth.

Will my baby need an operation?

Yes, but the timing will depend on the health and progress of your child. A cleft lip is usually repaired at three to five months of age, a cleft palate by one year of age and the upper gum between eight and eleven years of age.

The pictures show children with clefts that may look similar to your baby's cleft both before, and after surgery. It is difficult to predict exactly how your child will look after their operation as scars vary according to healing and skin type.



Jenson with his mum at around three months old and then just after his operation.



Here is Max before and after his lip operation.



This is Murray before and after his first operation.



Say hello to Hadees at around three months and then at age five.

What happens next?

We will arrange a clinic appointment for you to meet the Cleft Lip and Palate Team in the next four weeks. Your Clinical Nurse Specialist will continue to see you at home throughout the early stages of your child's treatment.

Suggestions/Comments

The staff are here to help and it is important for them to know if you have any comments or suggestions about the services you have received. If you wish to speak to a member of the cleft team please telephone us:

Liverpool: 0151 252 5209

Manchester: 0161 701 9091
Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on:

Manchester 0161 701 8700, Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. e-mail childrens.pals@cmft.nhs.uk

Liverpool 0151 252 5374/5161, Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. e-mail PALS@alderhey.nhs.uk

Information leaflets about our service are available to download from both Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Royal Manchester Children's Hospital websites:
www.alderhey.com/services/cleftpalate.asp
www.cmft.nhs.uk/childrens-hospitals/our-services/cleft-lipand-palate.aspx

External contacts and information

Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA)

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This information is available in Welsh, if preferred.
Mae'r wybodaeth hon ar gael yn Gymraeg, pe baech yn dymuno hynny.

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