



BILATERAL 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, a team of people specialises in the care of children born with cleft lip and/or a cleft palate. 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. They are sometimes inherited but often happen for no obvious reason.

What is a cleft lip and palate?

A bilateral cleft lip and palate is a gap in the upper lip, base of the nose, gum and palate on both sides of the mouth. Sometimes, part of the lip, gum and/or palate may be partially joined.

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 between three and 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.



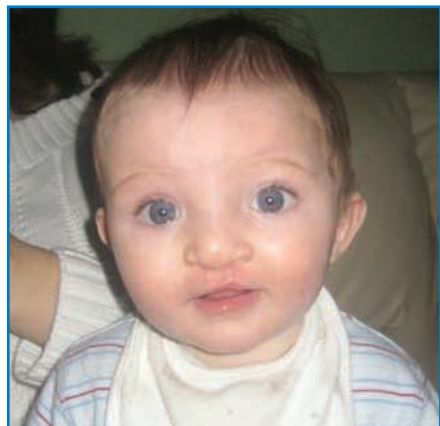
Here's Poppy before and after her operation.



This is Matt as he looks today, as he looked as a baby and somewhere in between!



This little smiler is Ryan seen before and after surgery.



Say hello to Adam, seen here before and after his cleft repair.

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 9007
Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

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

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

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

External contacts and information

Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA)
First Floor, Green Man Tower, 332b Goswell Rd, London EC1V 7LQ
Tel: 0207 833 4883 Fax 0207 833 5999
E-mail: info@clapa.com web: www.clapa.com

Changing Faces
The Squire Centre, 33-37 University Street, London, WC1E 6JN
Tel: 0845 4500 275 Fax 0845 4500 276
E-mail: info@changingfaces.org.uk web: www.changingfaces.org.uk

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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