



Cleft Lip

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 a 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. Sometimes they are inherited but they often happen for no obvious reason.

What is a cleft lip?

A cleft lip is a gap in the upper lip on either one side (unilateral) or both sides (bilateral). It can vary from a slight notch (an incomplete cleft lip) to a longer gap extending up towards and into the nostril (a complete cleft lip). Behind the cleft lip there may be a groove or gap in the upper gum.

Will my baby need an operation?

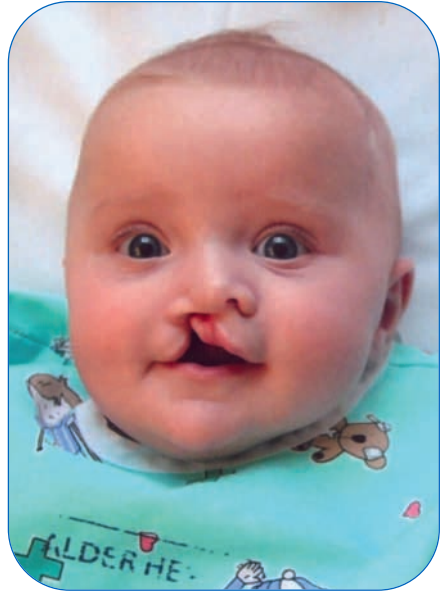
Yes, the timing will depend on the health and progress of your child. A cleft lip is usually repaired between three and five months of age. If there is a gap in the upper gum then another operation may be needed between the ages of eight to eleven years.

The pictures show children with different types of cleft lip, 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.

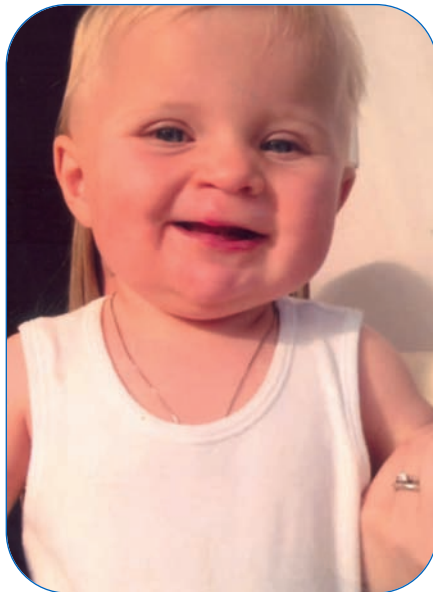


This little boy is Max. The photographs show him before surgery and after surgery as the boy he is today.



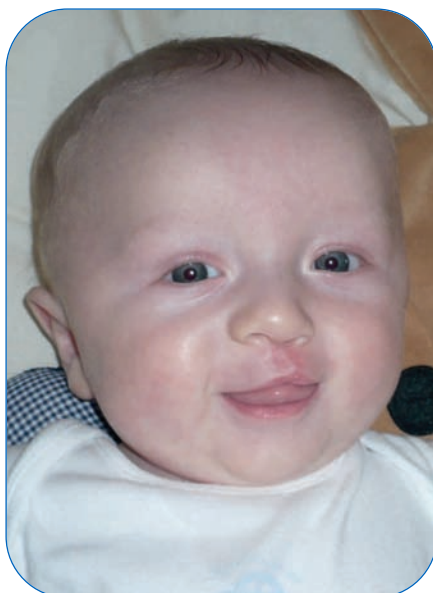


This little girl is Libby before and after surgery.





Say hello to Luke, seen here before surgery and in a happy mood just 18 days later.





Here is Ethan before surgery, a few weeks later and as a toddler.



What happens next?

We will arrange a clinic appointment for you to meet the Cleft Lip and Palate Team within 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 020 7833 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

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-lip-and-palate.aspx

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