These steps outline the usual treatment and follow-up plans. The Cleft Palate/Craniofacial program will contact you to make arrangements for these assessments, unless otherwise stated.

A baby born with a cleft lip & palate should be referred to the Cleft Palate & Craniofacial Program as soon as possible after birth for program coordination and family education.

**Newborn Nursing Consultation & Follow-up at birth:**
You and your family will learn about and get support for diagnosis, feeding, and treatment plans. This happens during a visit or by telephone. Nursing consultation is available to the family on an on-going basis.

**Orthodontic Evaluation within the first 2 weeks:**
The cleft is assessed and, if needed, your baby is fitted for an orthodontic appliance/nostril splinting and lip taping. Follow-up visits are arranged with the Orthodontist.

**Plastic Surgeon Consultation at 4-6 weeks of age:**
The surgeon assesses the cleft and begins planning for surgery. The plastic surgeon’s office will contact you directly with a consultation appointment.

**Pre-Admission Clinic Consultation 4 weeks before lip repair surgery:**
An anesthetist & nurse make sure that your baby is ready to have an anesthetic and surgery.

**Cleft Lip Surgery at approximately 3 – 4 months of age:**
This is a 1-2 night hospital stay. The plastic surgeon’s office will notify you of the date of surgery for your child.

**Plastic Surgery Follow-up Appointment:**
This happens 6 weeks after cleft lip repair. This may be done in your own community as directed by the surgeon.

**Cleft Palate Team Assessment at 8-9 months of age:**
The team includes staff from nursing, pediatrics, audiology (hearing), speech and language pathology, plastic surgery, orthodontics and otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat - ENT). This is a 2 day out-patient visit.

**Pre-Admission Clinic Consultation:**
An anesthetist & nurse make sure that your baby is ready to have an anesthetic and surgery. This visit may happen at the same time as the Cleft Palate Team Assessment above.

**Cleft Palate & Middle Ear Tube Surgery at approximately 9-12 months of age (or as directed by the surgeon):**
This is usually a 2 –3 night hospital stay. The plastic surgeon’s office will notify you of the date of surgery for your child.
Plastic Surgery, Audiology & Otolaryngology (ENT) recheck:
This happens 6-8 weeks after cleft palate & middle ear tube surgery. The recheck may be done in the family’s own community as directed by your child’s surgeon(s).

Cleft Palate Team Assessment at 18 months of age:
This assessment includes visits with nursing, pediatrics, audiology, speech & language pathology, plastic surgery & otolaryngology. This is a 2 day out-patient visit.

Regular Team follow-up at 3 & 5 years of age:
Or as directed by team members.

Notes:

For questions or concerns, please contact:
Cleft Palate Program: 604-875-3146
Nurse Clinician:
604-875-2345 local 7057
Toll free: 1-888-300-3088