

Follow Up Appointments

Your baby's operation is one of a number of operations to help their appearance.

It is important that your baby continues to be reviewed by the cleft team. This will allow the team to pick up on any problems that may develop and to plan further operations.

Please ensure that your child attends all their appointments. If you are unable to attend your child's appointment please contact the Cleft and Craniofacial office as soon as possible to arrange a new appointment.



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Important to Remember

Next Cleft Clinic Appointment

Next Speech and Language Therapy
Appointment

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University Hospital



Cleft Lip Repair

Discharge

Advice for Patients, Parents and Carers

Cleft Team

Main Hospital Number
01 878 4200



Going Home

Now that your baby is going home after their operation (Cleft Lip Repair) you may find this information leaflet helpful.

If you have any urgent concerns about your baby when you go home please contact the Plastic Surgery Registrar by ringing our switchboard on 01 8784200.

For routine questions regarding your baby's operation please contact the Cleft Nurse Specialist or the Cleft and Craniofacial Services Manager through the hospital switch board.

Food and Comfort



Your baby should continue to use the bottle you used before your baby's operation.

Feeding patterns and weaning can

continue as normal. Depending on the type of surgery your baby has had the use of pacifiers or soothers may be limited for 3 weeks.

Some babies may also need to wear mittens for 3 weeks.

Please discuss this with your surgeon or Cleft Nurse Specialist.

Pain Relief and Antibiotics

Pain relief such as ibuprofen (Nurofen) or paracetamol (Calpol) are suitable to use when you go home. Antibiotics are not routinely given after this type of operation. However, some children may require antibiotics. If your baby requires antibiotics it is important that the full course is taken.

Lip Wound

Your baby has a wound on their upper lip which contains tiny stitches. The stitches used on the surface may be dissolvable or they may need to be removed after 7 days. If needed, the stitches are removed when your baby is asleep under a light general anaesthetic in theatre. Any remaining stitches will dissolve approximately 2 weeks after their operation. The team will confirm with you which type of stitches have been used before you go home.

Please keep the area around your baby's wound clean and dry by gently washing and patting it with a soft towel.

It is important that no food debris or mucus is allowed to build up around your baby's wound area.

Later Care of the Lip Wound

Daily massage, starting 3 weeks after surgery, will help in making your baby's scar soft and supple.

Massage with perfume free creams such as Vaseline, Silcocks Base, Vitamin E Creams. All of which can be bought from most chemists.

With your thumb perform massage along the scar line with a firm rubbing action. The pressure used should make your baby's skin blanch (go pale) but should not cause pain.

A massage lasting 5 mins should be carried out 2-3 times a day for 3-6 months.

Activities

Most babies return to their routine very soon after the operation. Your baby should be allowed to play as normal, however, do not allow your baby to put any sharp objects into their mouth for 3 weeks.

If your child attends a crèche or nursery they can return 2 weeks after their operation.