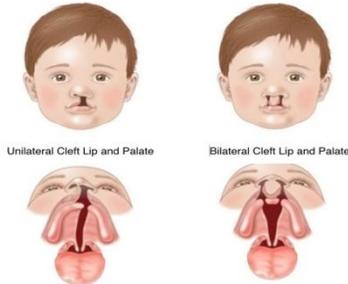


## What is Cleft lip and palate?

Cleft lip and palate are openings or splits in the upper lip, the roof of the mouth or both.

### Types of cleft lip and palate:

1. Cleft of lip (Opening on one side/ both the sides)
2. Cleft of palate (Complete, Incomplete )
3. Cleft of lip and palate



### How does it occur?

- If the tissues fail to form completely, it results in a gap during fetal development.

### Possible causes:

- Heredity
- Maternal infections and toxic effects of rubella during first trimester.

### Symptoms

- Immediately identifiable at birth by visual inspection
- A split in the lip and roof of the mouth that can affect one / both sides of the face

### Problems associated with cleft lip and palate:

- ❖ **Difficulty with feeding:** Food coming out of nose, Hygienic issues, increased feeding duration may increase physical and mental stress to baby and mother etc
- ❖ Difficulty in swallowing
- ❖ Chronic ear infections and hearing loss.
- ❖ Social and emotional problems

### Speech problems:

- ❖ Nasal speaking voice
- ❖ Dental problems
- ❖ Pronunciation errors may be found

### Treatment

1. **Surgical treatment:** Surgery involves stitching of lip and palate skin together.



2. **Prosthetic management:** This aids the patient in developing normal speech, promoting swallowing and in closing off the oral cavity from the nasal cavity.



3. **Speech Therapy:** The Speech Language Pathologist can provide, from an early age, information about feeding, oral motor function and speech. Speech therapy helps in correcting the nasal speech and pronunciation errors.



### Myths or misbeliefs

- ❖ Cleft occurs because of sin done by the mother in past life.
- ❖ Cleft lip and palate is purely a cosmetic concern
- ❖ A cleft lip is the same thing as a cleft palate
- ❖ Cleft cannot be treated with surgery
- ❖ One surgery is enough to repair a cleft lip
- ❖ Speech of a child with cleft cannot be corrected.

### Tip

Don't blame yourself -  
focus your energy on  
helping yourself and  
your child.

### Contact Us:

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### Public Education Pamphlet



### CLEFT LIP AND PALATE