



Cleft Lip and Palate

Cleft lip and palate affects 1 in 700 children worldwide, making it one of the most common birth defects. Children with cleft lip are often diagnosed before birth during routine ultrasound, while children with cleft palate are diagnosed after birth. In addition to the visible defects, patients with cleft lip and palate can also experience difficulty with feeding and, as they grow, with speech. The care of these children requires a multidisciplinary team of medical professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat them over the course of their lifetime.

The Texas Cleft-Craniofacial Team is one of the longest-running cleft teams in Texas, combining providers from Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, UT Physicians and McGovern Medical School at UTHealth in Houston. Patients receive personalized care in coordinated team visits to ensure they see all affiliated providers in a single visit. The affiliated physicians perform all inpatient procedures and treatments for craniofacial conditions at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, working with a specialized team of individuals to enhance care for every patient. The affiliated team includes professionals in audiology, genetics, nursing, nutrition, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, otorhinolaryngology, pediatric dentistry, plastic surgery, psychiatry and speech pathology. The team is recognized as an approved team with the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA). This distinction is given to teams that demonstrate the Standards of ACPA - that they identify essential characteristics of quality for team composition and functioning.

Conditions Treated

- Apert Syndrome
- Chronic Ear Disorders
- Cleft Lip
- Cleft Palate
- Cognitive and Behavioral Problems in Children and Adolescents
- Congenital Head and Neck Lesions
- Cranial Abnormalities
- Craniosynostosis
- Crouzon Syndrome
- Ear Abnormalities
- Facial Scars
- Facial Trauma
- Hemifacial Microsomia
- Jaw Abnormalities
- Micrognathia
- Microtia
- Nasal Deformities
- Pediatric Neck Masses
- Pediatric Voice Disorders
- Pierre Robin Sequence
- Speech Concerns
- Treacher Collins Syndrome
- Van der Woude Syndrome
- Velopharyngeal Insufficiency (VPI)

Pediatric Procedures Performed

- Alveolar Bone Graft
- Cleft Lip Repair
- Cleft Palate Repair
- Craniofacial Distraction
- Ear Reconstruction
- Facial Trauma Reconstruction
- Mandibular Distraction
- Maxillary Distraction
- Open and Endoscopic Neonatal Airway Surgery
- Orthodontics
- Orthognathic Surgery
- Palatal Fistula Closure
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Presurgical Molding (PNAM) for Cleft Lip and Palate
- Rhinoplasty or Nasal Revision
- Speech Correction

Research

The multidisciplinary team, in conjunction with the UTHealth School of Dentistry, includes affiliated physicians who are faculty members of McGovern Medical School with extensive experience in the genetics of cleft lip and palate. Using its extensive network of parents and patients, the affiliated team is gathering information on patient-reported outcomes to evaluate the emotional and psychological wellbeing of patients with cleft lip and palate at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

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Meet the Cleft Lip and Palate Team *(All physicians listed are affiliated with McGovern Medical School at UTHealth unless otherwise noted.)*

Pediatric Plastic Surgery

Matthew Greives, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery
Chief, Division of Pediatric Plastic Surgery
Director, Texas Cleft-Craniofacial Team

Phuong Nguyen, MD, FACS, FAAP

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery
Director, Craniofacial Surgery

Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics

Bhavini Acharya, BDS, MPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Gisela Velásquez Bona, DDS, MS

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Brett Chiquet, DDS, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Randy Ellis, DDS, MS

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Helder Baldi Jacob, DDS, MSc, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Speech-Language Pathology

Kim Loan Luu, MA, CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital

Courtney Stout, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital

Nursing/Team Coordinator

Irene Leanne Doringo, MSN, RN

Clinical Coordinator, Texas Cleft-Craniofacial Team

Collaborating with Referring Physicians

Referring physicians are kept fully informed throughout a patient's evaluation and treatment process. After a patient's office visit, referring physicians receive a summary that includes initial diagnosis, pending tests and treatment options.

Patient Referral

Visit childrens.memorialhermann.org/cleft-lip-and-palate for more information, to refer a patient or to contact a member of our team.

Pediatric Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Clinic – Texas Medical Center

UT Professional Building, Pediatric Surgery
6410 Fannin, Suite 950
Houston, Texas 77030
Clinic: 832.325.7234, Fax: 713.512.2221

Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat)

Zhen “Jane” Huang, MD, MBA

Assistant Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Zi Yang Jiang, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Soham Roy, MD, FACS, FAAP

Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology
Director, Pediatric Otolaryngology

Sancak Yuksel, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Psychiatry

Deborah A. Pearson, PhD

Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Director, Developmental Neuropsychology Clinic

Medical Genetics

Jacqueline Hecht, PhD

Professor and Leah L. Lewis Distinguished Chair
Professor and Associate Dean for Research*

Emily Hansen-Kiss, MS, MA, CGC

Certified Genetic Counselor and Instructor
Department of Diagnostic and Medical Sciences*

Physician Assistant

Kelly Turner, PA-C

Physician Assistant, Department of Pediatric Plastic Surgery

*UTHealth School of Dentistry

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