

Services Available on Vancouver Island

The Cleft Lip/Palate Service provides access to the comprehensive multidisciplinary services recommended for children with cleft lip and/or palate. This program is available for children, aged birth to 19 years, who live within the island health region.

Regularly scheduled “clinic days” offer an opportunity for families to meet with all of the team members in one visit, for both assessment and treatment planning.

WHAT IS CLEFT LIP AND/OR PALATE?

A cleft is an opening in the lip, gum, or roof of an infant’s mouth, which is present at birth.

Clefts result from incomplete closure of oral structures during the early stages of pregnancy. The incidence of cleft lip/palate is 1/400 to 1/700 live births.

Some cleft palates (called submucous clefts) are not visible externally and are identified when a child has difficulty with speech.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Children with clefts often have difficulty eating and talking. However, surgery and therapy can reduce these challenges. Once a family is referred, they will be contacted as soon as possible, to initiate services and supports.

An initial team assessment will be offered to the family within the newborn period.

Referral Process

Referrals are welcome as soon as a cleft is identified (before or after birth).

Referrals for infants with overt clefts can be made by a medical professional or by parents.

Referrals for children with suspected submucous clefts should be made by a Speech Language Pathologist or Ear Nose and Throat Specialist, with children having had a previous assessment by both.

The Clinic Coordinator, or designate, is available to answer questions and assist with the referral process.

Contact Information:

Cleft Palate Clinic Coordinator

Phone: 250- 519-5390 local 36329 or

Intake: 250-519-6967 or 250-519-6763

Fax: 250- 519-6918

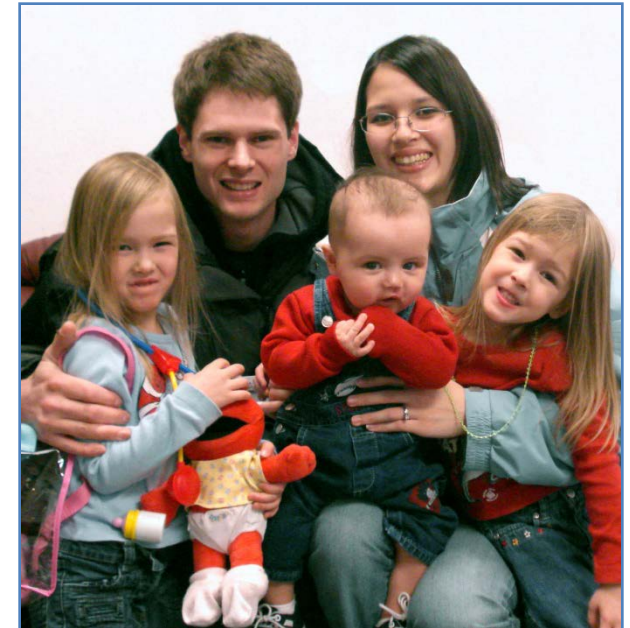
Queen Alexandra Centre for Children’s Health

2400 Arbutus Road

Victoria, B.C. V8N1V7



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Child, Youth & Family Rehabilitation Services

VANCOUVER ISLAND CLEFT LIP/PALATE SERVICES

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MEMBERS OF THE CLEFT LIP/PALATE CLINIC TEAM

In addition to the disciplines described below, parents, family physicians and specialists in each child's community are considered essential members of each child's care team.

Referrals to other specialists such as a geneticist, nutritionist or other community professionals, may also be requested.

OUR TEAM

Medical Coordinator/Pediatrician

- Provides a medical examination and detailed history, including genetic counseling
- Assists with medical follow-up and developmental assessment
- Arranges for medical procedures that are necessary for treatment planning and surgery



Clinic Coordinator

- Meets with new parents to provide cleft evaluation and offer teaching and general support
- Coordinates clinic appointments and assists in the ongoing coordination of the child's care

Plastic Surgeon

- Recommends and provides surgical procedures necessary to improve speech, feeding, and appearance

Ear Nose & Throat Specialist/ Otolaryngologist

- Evaluates the function of mouth, nose and throat structures used in speech and breathing and makes recommendations for treatment
- Arranges for and inserts pressure equalization tubes (ear tubes), which are commonly needed in children with clefts

Speech-Language Pathologist

- Provides consultation and recommendations regarding early feeding
- Monitors speech and resonance throughout childhood
- Assists in determining when/if a child would benefit from surgery to improve speech
- Consults with community Speech Language Pathologists

Orthodontist

- Assesses the face, jaw and teeth for facial growth/development and dental alignment
- Assists with treatment planning that may involve other dental specialists (i.e. oral surgeons)

Pediatric Dental Specialist

- Arranges for and provides oral appliances before the lip/palate is surgically repaired
- Examines the child's teeth and makes recommendations regarding dental care and ongoing follow-up needs

Audiologist

- Completes hearing screenings and facilitates follow-up hearing tests as needed

Clinic Nurse

- Provides information and support to parents regarding the child's general health care and directs parents to appropriate resources
- Provides postsurgical follow-up

Social Worker

- Provides support to the child and their families attending the clinic
- Makes recommendations for and referrals to community services