



Craniofacial Center

The team concept

The Craniofacial Center at Children's Hospital New Orleans is dedicated to providing holistic, coordinated, state-of-the-art care to children with craniofacial differences. All team members specialize in complexities of caring for children with clefts and other craniofacial conditions.

Children with clefts and craniofacial differences thrive best when cared for by specialists from many different disciplines. The team approach ensures that healthcare providers work together to implement a single, coordinated, and patient-centered treatment plan unique to your child.



Children's Hospital
New Orleans
LCMC Health

Craniofacial Center

Craniofacial Pediatrics

The craniofacial pediatrician will diagnose your child and manage medical problems related to their craniofacial differences. The physician guides your child's overall treatment and works with other team members to coordinate specialty care. Your craniofacial pediatrician will be familiar with all aspects of your child's condition and with your family's needs and desires. The craniofacial pediatrician will work with your family's physician to monitor your child's overall health and development.

Plastic/Reconstructive and Craniofacial Surgery

Our plastic surgeons are fellowship-trained in craniofacial surgery. They specialize in the surgical treatment of craniofacial differences. They perform plastic and reconstructive surgery on both soft tissue in the face and the bones of the face and skull. In patients with craniofacial anomalies, surgeries are timed to optimize physical appearance, social adjustment, brain growth and development, and facial growth.

Audiology

Children with craniofacial conditions are more likely to have ear and hearing problems. Untreated hearing loss can lead to problems with speech and language development, emotional and social development, and learning. Our audiologists will check your child's hearing throughout childhood, starting as early as one week old.

Dentistry

Children with craniofacial conditions may be at higher risk for dental abnormalities or problems like cavities. Our pediatric dentist monitors the patient's dental needs, growth and development as the teeth erupt and mature. Healthy teeth and gums are very important for all children, and our pediatric dentist can help provide care specific to children with special healthcare needs.

Genetics

Many babies with craniofacial conditions have "isolated" problems that do not affect their general health. The geneticist identifies those few patients who may have a more complicated genetic condition associated with other medical problems and/or family history. They can advise you about the pros and cons of genetic testing, counsel the family, and give information about the prognosis and recurrence risks.

Nursing

The nurse coordinator helps the family with specialized education regarding the nature of the child's medical diagnosis. They help coordinate your child's care and facilitate communication among the care team members and with your family. They have a thorough understanding of your child's condition and can answer questions and offer advice throughout their life, including feeding your newborn. They teach you about your child's disorder and treatment. Nurses help you prepare for surgery and understand the care needed after surgery.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons specialize in procedures to treat the jaw, teeth and lower face. The goals are to create facial symmetry, properly align the jaws and ensure proper placement of your child's teeth. They work closely with our other surgeons, dentists, and orthodontists to maximize growth potential, establish a functional bite, and normalize facial appearance.

Orthodontics

Many craniofacial conditions, including cleft lip and palate, can cause disturbance in the jaw's normal growth, development, and positioning. The orthodontist monitors this progress and often uses appliances or braces to guide the movement of both jaws during facial growth.

Otolaryngology

Our otolaryngologists are surgeons with expertise in treating disorders of the head, neck, ears, nose and throat in children of all ages. They assess and monitor your child's hearing, ears, feeding, breathing and speech development.

Neurosurgery

Neurosurgeons specialize in treating children with abnormalities of the brain and skull. Our neurosurgeons work closely with our plastic and reconstructive surgeons to treat children with craniofacial conditions that involve the skull and spine.

Social Services

Our social workers help throughout your child's care. They provide support and information about your child's diagnosis and the impact a craniofacial difference may have on your family. They assist with helping you find community resources, alternative resources for financial assistance, family support groups, and can facilitate family-to-family connections.

Speech Pathology

Craniofacial differences, including cleft palate, may contribute to speech problems. Our speech pathologists assess and monitor your child's speech development throughout childhood to determine how to improve their speech skills. They provide the family with suggestions for facilitating normal speech and language in the home and provide diagnosis and therapeutic intervention when indicated.



To contact the Children's Hospital New Orleans Craniofacial Center please call 504.896.9857 or visit chnola.org/craniofacial-center.