

Lip Revision (Cheiloplasty) Post-Operative Instructions

What is Lip Revision (Cheiloplasty)?

Lip surgery (also referred to as revision cheiloplasty) may be necessary to improve the appearance and function of the lip which has been distorted with growth after a cleft lip, cleft palate or other craniofacial surgery. Surgery to revise the appearance of the lip and/or nose may take place before the child starts school or during the teenage years, depending on the recommendations of the plastic surgeon.

What changes to appearance can I expect after the surgery?

After lip surgery there will be sutures (stitches) in your child's lip. The amount of sutures in the incision line will depend on the extent of the initial deformity and the technique used by the surgeon for closure. The area will be pink around the sutures and slightly swollen.

How will I take care of the wounds?

The suture line should be cleansed frequently to prevent crust formation and infection. The steri-strips over the incision should be left in place. If the edges of these strips begin to curl up, these may be trimmed. You may use a cotton-tipped applicator and half strength hydrogen peroxide to gently clean around the nostrils and sutures. If your child is a toddler, be sure to keep the arm restraints on, especially if your child wants to rub the area. **Avoid trauma to the area.**

How will I manage my child's pain at home?

By the time your child is ready to go home from the hospital they should not have much discomfort. The doctor may suggest a mild pain relief medication if

needed. Try Tylenol® alone first. If your doctor prescribes Tylenol® with Codeine make sure your child takes it with food to prevent stomach upset.

What will my child be able to eat?

Generally, there are no dietary restrictions after lip revision. Avoid giving the child any hard foods or food that causes stretching of the lip or tension on the suture line. **No pacifiers should be used.** Your child feedings may be smaller than the normal amount. Make sure your child is drinking adequate amounts and urinating so that they do not get dehydrated.

When will my child return for a follow-up appointment?

If you did not receive an appointment when your child is discharged, please call the office at the number listed below to schedule. Bring any questions you may have with you to this appointment. If you are unable to keep the appointment, please be sure to call and reschedule.

When should I call the doctor?

Call us if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Signs of infection including bright redness, pus-like drainage or swelling
- Any sutures coming out or the incision appears to be spreading apart
- Oral temperature over 100.5°F. Check to make sure that he is getting enough liquids.
- If you cannot get your child to take food or liquids.

What is the contact information?

If you have any question, problems or concerns call the Pediatric Plastic Surgery clinic from 8-5:00pm Monday thru Friday, 734-763-8063. After 5:00pm or on the weekends if you have urgent issues call hospital paging at 734 936-4000 and ask the operator to page the Plastic Surgery Resident “on call”.

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