

## **CLEFT LIP TREATMENT TIMELINE**

This is a timeline for the treatment of the child with only a cleft lip. This is a generalized plan of treatment. Each child is individually evaluated and a care plan is then formulated for that child's treatment.

### **1 MONTH**

This is your first visit to see the Plastic Surgeon. Your baby will be weighed to be sure he/she is gaining weight appropriately. A history will be taken as well as picture. The Plastic Surgeon will discuss with you the best treatment plan for your baby

### **2½ - 3½ MONTHS**

The **cleft lip is repaired** at this time. If the nose is also repaired at this time, your surgeon may feel it is necessary for your baby to receive nasal stents. The baby will stay in the hospital 23 hours-overnight for observation. Your baby will come back to visit the surgeon in clinic about 1-2 weeks after the surgery.

### **5 YEARS – 6 YEARS**

If a revision or “touch-up” of the lip or tip of the nose is needed, the usual time is before the child goes to kindergarten. This is usually done as an outpatient procedure.

### **5 YEARS – 9 YEARS**

If your child has a gap in the bone of the gum line, a **bone graft** may be needed. Children who have a cleft through the gumline (alveolar ridge) often need to have this area expanded in preparation for the bone graft. The pediatric dentist or orthodontist will do this. This is done in the office – similar to braces. After expansion is completed by the dentist or orthodontist, surgery by the plastic surgeon will be scheduled. Bone from the hip is used to fill the gap in the gum line. This surgery is done as a 23 hour-overnight observation stay. Your child will require 6 weeks of limited physical activity to allow the hip to heal. Additionally oral antibiotics and mouthwash will be prescribed.

### **11 YEARS – 14 YEARS**

As the child grows his/her face changes. A revision of the lip and/or nose may be desired. This can be done as an outpatient procedure.

It is important to maintain quality health care for your child. Your Plastic Surgeon can refer you to the appropriate health care providers. Remember to keep appointments and to follow instructions given by your health care provider to achieve the best possible outcome for you and your child!!

**The Plastic Surgery Office has provided the information. If you need additional information, please call 636-7181.**

