CIMS Hospital is a leading multi-speciality state-of-the-art hospital of Ahmedabad. The hospital provides comprehensive treatment to cleft children with our multi-disciplinary approach consisting of a team of:

- Maxillofacial Surgeon
- Paediatrician
- Paediatric Anaesthetist
- Paediatric Dentist
- Orthodontist
- Speech Therapist
- Audiologist
- Genetic Counsellor
- Nursing Staff
- Social Workers

Our Goal — Work together with the child and the family to provide the best possible outcomes and improve the child's quality of life.

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CIMS Hospital
CARE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Raising Trust with World Class Practices

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**What is it?**

Cleft Lip and Palate is one of the commonest birth defects found in new-born babies. The child affected by this defect has a cut in his/her upper lip or palate or both, that may extend up to nose. It is estimated that in India, 35,000 children are born with clefts every year and out of these nearly 3500 cleft babies are born in Gujarat.

**Why it occurs?**

It is thought to be caused by a combination of genetic factors and exposure to various environmental factors during pregnancy:

- Nutritional Deficiency – Folic Acid deficiency
- Certain medications – such as anticonvulsant drugs, etc.
- Exposure to alcohol or smoking
- Viral infections or toxins

**How does it affect the baby?**

**This can lead to:**

- Cosmetic abnormality
- Difficulty in feeding and swallowing of food
- Malnutrition
- Recurrent respiratory tract infection
- Ear infections and hearing loss
- Speech difficulties
- Dental problems

**Child also suffers from social as well as psychological problems like:**

- Lack of confidence, low self-esteem
- Negligence from children of same age group
- Avoiding social gatherings, school
- Affects quality of life

**What is the treatment available?**

Cleft lip and Palate is an entirely correctable deformity and surgery is the only choice of treatment

- The surgery is considerably safe & requires general anaesthesia.
- The surgery is of short duration, around 45 min to 1 hr procedure.
- A short hospital stay of 1 to 2 days is required for recovery.

**The child requires multiple surgeries at different stages**

- Cleft Lip – 4 to 6 months of age
- Cleft palate – 9 to 12 months of age

**Secondary Surgeries, that may be required:**

- Alveolar bone grafting – 7 to 9 yrs of age
- Orthognathic / Distraction (Bone surgeries) – 14 to 16 yrs of age
- Rhinoplasty – 16 yrs of age

**Other treatments such as Speech Therapy or Dental care, may be needed for associated symptoms.**