



Cleft-Craniofacial Services

The Texas Cleft-Craniofacial team at UTHealth Medical School, in collaboration with Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, specializes in the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and long-term management of children with congenital or acquired cleft and craniofacial deformities. The team approach combines the expertise of physicians and allied healthcare professionals from across 13 different specialties and subspecialties to ensure patients receive coordinated, evidence-based care and experience the best possible clinical outcomes.

Treatment

The craniofacial surgery team at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital includes affiliated pediatric neurosurgeons, craniofacial surgeons and specialized anesthesiologists who utilize the latest surgical techniques and state-of-the-art equipment to diagnose and treat the most complex craniofacial abnormalities. By combining the talents of several surgeons, patients who undergo surgical treatment for facial deformities benefit from the highest level of patient safety as well as the likelihood of fewer childhood surgeries and a more normal appearance.

The team pioneered the use of endoscopic techniques in craniosynostosis, which reduces incision size and scarring and improves recovery time. The team is also experienced in the surgical technique of distraction osteogenesis (DO) and presurgical nasoalveolar molding (PNAM), which involves reshaping the gums, lips and nostrils before cleft lip and palate surgery to dramatically improve the results of the patient's initial surgery.

Scope of Expertise

The team is comprised of renowned medical professionals from a broad spectrum of specialties, including:

- Audiology
- Genetics
- Neurosurgery
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Orthodontics
- Otorhinolaryngology
- Pediatric dentistry
- Pediatrics
- Plastic surgery
- Psychology
- Speech pathology (over)

The Texas Cleft-Craniofacial team was established in 1952 as a joint venture between UTHealth School of Dentistry and UTHealth Medical School.

Collaborating with Referring Physicians

Referring physicians are kept fully informed about a patient's progress throughout the entire evaluation and treatment process. After a patient's office visit, referring physicians will receive a summary that includes the initial diagnosis, pending tests and treatment options.

Research

The current research focus is to coordinate with the Texas Fetal Center and UTHealth Medical School's Program in Children's Regenerative Medicine and to develop stem cell treatment programs for cleft and craniofacial surgery.

Patient Referral

To refer a patient or speak to a physician, please call 832.325.7234. To refer a craniofacial anomaly patient for a prenatal consultation, please call 713.500.7302.

Meet the Craniofacial Team

PEDIATRIC PLASTIC SURGERY

John F. Teichgraber, M.D., FACS
 Director, Texas Cleft-Craniofacial Team
 Professor and Chief, Department of
 Pediatric Surgery, Division of Pediatric
 Plastic and Craniofacial Surgery
 UTHealth Medical School

PEDIATRIC ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Jaime Gateño, D.D.S., M.D.
 Professor of Clinical Surgery
 Chairman, Department of Oral
 and Maxillofacial Surgery
 Weill Medical College Cornell University

PEDIATRIC ORTHODONTICS AND DENTISTRY

Randy Ellis, D.D.S., M.S.
 Clinical Associate Professor
 Department of Orthodontics
 UTHealth School of Dentistry

Bhavini Acharya, B.D.S., M.P.H.
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Pediatric Dentistry
 UTHealth School of Dentistry

Gisela Velásquez, D.D.S., M.S.
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Pediatric Dentistry
 UTHealth School of Dentistry

PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

David I. Sandberg, M.D., FACS, FAAP
 Director, Pediatric Neurosurgery
 Mischer Neuroscience Institute
 Associate Professor and Chief
 Department of Pediatric Surgery
 Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
 UTHealth Medical School

Stephen Fletcher, D.O.
 Associate Professor
 Department of Pediatric Surgery
 Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
 UTHealth Medical School

Manish Shah, M.D.
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Pediatric Surgery
 Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
 UTHealth Medical School

PEDIATRIC OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Soham Roy, M.D., FACS, FAAP
 Associate Professor and Director of Pediatric
 Otorhinolaryngology and Quality Officer
 UTHealth Medical School

Sancak Yuksel, M.D.
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Otorhinolaryngology
 UTHealth Medical School

GENETICS

Alix D'Angelo, M.G.C., CGC
 Instructor, Genetic Counselor, Department of
 Diagnostic and Biomedical Sciences
 UTHealth School of Dentistry

Jacqueline T. Hecht, Ph.D.
 Professor, Department of Pediatrics
 Division of Medical Genetics
 UTHealth Medical School

Joanne Nguyen, M.D.
 Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
 Division of Medical Genetics
 UTHealth Medical School

NURSING/COORDINATOR

Irene Leanne Doringo, RN, M.S.N.
 Clinical Coordinator, Texas Cleft-Craniofacial
 Team, Division of Pediatric Plastic and
 Craniofacial Surgery
 UTHealth Medical School

ALLIED HEALTH

Kim Loan Luu, M.A., CCC/SLP
 Speech Pathology

Deborah Pearson, Ph.D.
 Professor, Division of Child
 and Adolescent Psychiatry
 UTHealth Medical School

The affiliated, board-certified physicians are leaders in providing the most advanced treatments for a full spectrum of congenital and acquired cleft and craniofacial conditions, including:

- Apert syndrome
- Abnormal head shape
- Cleft lip and palate
- Congenital nevi
- Craniosynostosis
- Crouzon syndrome
- Facial trauma
- Hemangiomas
- Hemifacial microsomia
- Jaw anomalies
- Micrognathia
- Nasal deformity
- Pierre Robin complex
- Position-induced head shape abnormalities
- Prominent ears
- Saethre-Chatzen syndrome
- Scar deformities
- Skin tags
- Skin tumors
- Stickler syndrome
- Torticollis
- Treacher-Collins syndrome
- Van der Woude syndrome
- Vascular malformations
- Velopharyngeal insufficiency (VPI)



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