Abnormalities of the skull and facial skeleton are common, but it is often difficult to determine the optimal treatment plan. Some conditions, such as the common deformational plagiocephaly, are the result of external pressure on the back of the infant’s head, which can be treated with repositioning, physical therapy or even molding helmets. Other more rare conditions, including craniosynostosis or fusion of the joints of the skull bones, must be treated with surgery. Determining the optimal treatment plan requires specialized care and expertise.

Founded in 1952, the Texas Cleft-Craniofacial Team is one of the longest-running craniofacial teams in Texas, combining providers from Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, UT Physicians and McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. Patients receive personalized care in coordinated team visits, ensuring that they see all affiliated providers in a single visit and receive individualized treatment plans.

The affiliated physicians perform all inpatient procedures and treatments for craniofacial conditions at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, working with a specialized team of individuals to enhance care for every patient.

The affiliated team is recognized as an approved team with the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA). This distinction is given to teams that demonstrate the Standards of ACPA – that they identify essential characteristics of quality for team composition and functioning.

Specialties
The affiliated team at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, UT Physicians and McGovern Medical School includes providers in genetics, pediatric neurosurgery, nursing, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, pediatric ENT, plastic surgery, psychiatry and speech pathology.
Conditions Treated

- Aperts Syndrome
- Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome
- Binder Syndrome
- Craniosynostosis
- Crouzon Syndrome
- Cutis Aplasia
- Deformational Plagiocephaly
- Dermoid Cyst
- Encephalocele
- Facial Paralysis
- Facial Scars
- Facial Trauma Reconstruction
- Fibrous Dysplasia
- Hemifacial Microsomia
- Jaw Abnormalities
- Linear Scleroderma
- Micrognathia
- Microtia
- Muenke Syndrome
- Nasal Deformities
- Neurofibromatosis
- Non-syndromic Craniosynostosis
- Orbital Hypertelorism
- Parry-Romberg Syndrome
- Pierre Robin Sequence
- Rare Craniofacial Clefts
- Saethre-Chotzen Syndrome
- Speech Concerns
- Stickler Syndrome
- Syndromic Craniosynostosis
- Tongue-based Obstruction
- Treacher Collins Syndrome
- Van der Woude Syndrome
- Vascular Malformations
- Vascular Tumors

Pediatric Procedures Performed

- Cranial Vault Remodeling
- Cranioaxillofacial Procedures
- Cranioplasty for Skull Defects
- Ear Reconstruction
- Endoscopic or Minimally Invasive Cranietomy
- Facial Bipartition
- Facial Reanimation
- Fat Grafting
- LeFort Osteotomies 1, 2, and 3
- Mandibular Distraction
- Microsurgical Reconstruction
- Monobloc Distraction
- Orbital Repositioning
- Orthognathic Surgery
- Posterior Cranial Vault Distraction
- Soft Tissue Debulking
- Tongue Reduction
- Traumatic Facial Reconstruction
- Tumor Excision

Research

The multidisciplinary team includes affiliated physicians who are faculty members of McGovern Medical School with extensive experience in research of craniofacial conditions, including the use of molding helmets for deformational plagiocephaly. Our affiliated team was one of the early adopters of endoscopic or minimally invasive craniosynostosis surgery and continues to look for new ways to improve outcomes for patients at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital.
MEET THE TEAM

(All physicians listed are affiliated with McGovern Medical School at UTHealth unless otherwise noted.)

PEDIATRIC PLASTIC AND CRANIOFACIAL SURGERY

Matthew R. Greives, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery
William J. Devane Distinguished Professorship
Chief, Division of Pediatric Plastic Surgery
Director, Texas Cleft-Craniofacial Team

Phuong D. Nguyen, MD, FACS, FAAP
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery
Director, Craniofacial Surgery

PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

David I. Sandberg, MD, FAANS, FACS, FAAP
Professor and Director, Pediatric Neurosurgery
Dr. Marnie Rose Professorship in Pediatric Neurosurgery
Department of Pediatric Surgery and
Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery
Co-director, Pediatric Brain Tumor Program

Stephen Fletcher, DO
Associate Professor, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Department of Pediatric Surgery

Manish N. Shah, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Director of Pediatric Spasticity and Epilepsy Surgery,
Department of Pediatric Surgery
Director, Texas Comprehensive Spasticity Center

NURSING/TEAM COORDINATOR

Irene Leanne Doringo, MSN, RN
Clinical Coordinator, Texas Cleft-Craniofacial Team

PEDIATRIC ORTHODONTICS AND DENTISTRY

Bhavini Acharya, BDS, MPH
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Gisela Velásquez Bona, DDS, MS
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Brett Chiquet, DDS, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Randy Ellis, DDS, MS
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

Helder Baldi Jacob, DDS, MSc, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry*

PEDIATRIC OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY–HEAD AND NECK SURGERY
(EAR, NOSE AND THROAT)

Zhen “Jane” Huang, MD, MBA
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology

Zi Yang Jiang, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology

Soham Roy, MD, FACS, FAAP
Professor, Division of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology
Director, Pediatric Otolaryngology

Sancak Yuksel, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Kelly Turner, PA-C
Physician Assistant, Department of Pediatric Plastic Surgery

*UTHealth School of Dentistry

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.

Patient Referral or to Contact a Member of Our Team

childrens.memorialhermann.org/services/neurological/craniosynostosis
childrens.memorialhermann.org/services/position-induced-head-shape-abnormalities