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 osteogenosis (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

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

**PEDDIATRIC PLASTIC SURGERY**

John F. Teichgraeber, 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

**PEDDIATRIC 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

**PEDDIATRIC 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

**PEDDIATRIC 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

**PEDDIATRIC 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-Chotzen syndrome
- Scar deformities
- Skin tags
- Skin tumors
- Stickler syndrome
- Torticollis
- Treacher-Collins syndrome
- Van der Woude syndrome
- Vascular malformations
- Velopharyngeal insufficiency (VPI)