

This transition leaflet is part of a series aimed at young people and is produced by the North West Cleft Lip and Palate Network.



This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss your treatment with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your treatment. This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

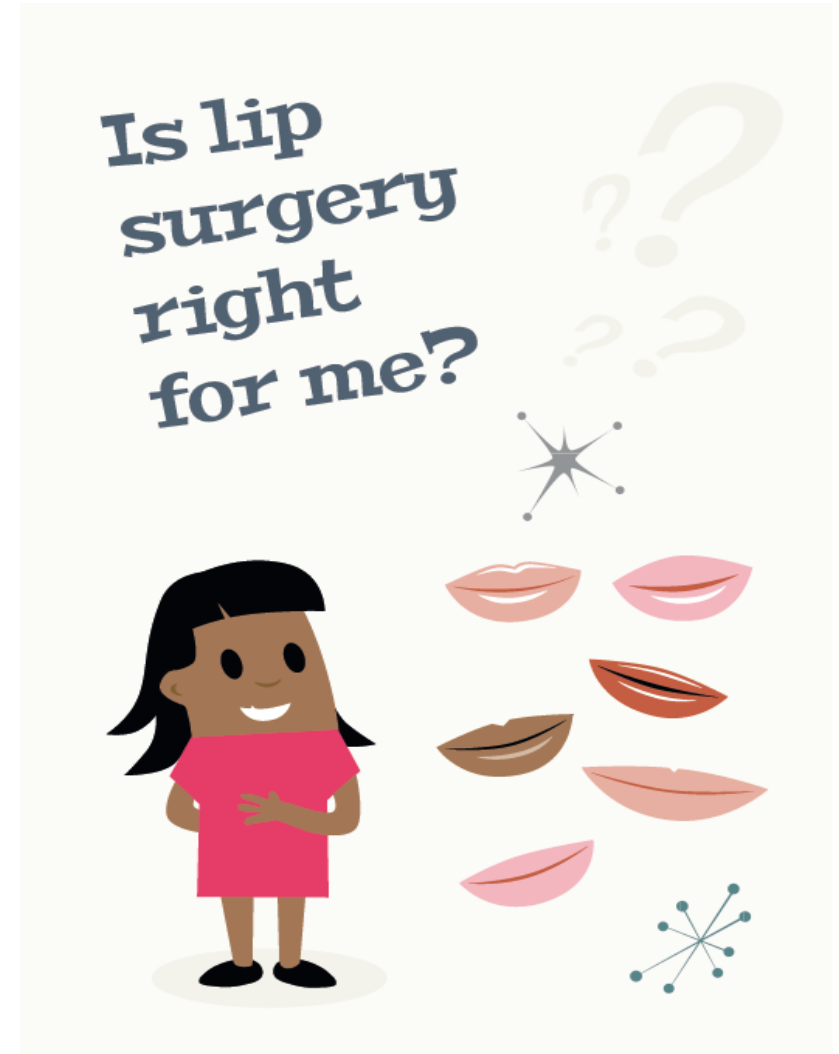
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Cleft Department



Why do people have this surgery?

Some people who have had their cleft lip repaired as a baby may find that, as they grow up, they are not happy with how their lip now looks. Sometimes further surgery can help improve how their lip looks. This type of surgery is called a lip revision or lip re-repair.

Who should I talk to if I want to know more about this?

You should let a member of the Cleft Team know if you would like to talk more about how your lip looks. Your surgeon can look at your lip in clinic and advise you whether or not surgery may be useful for you. Lip revision surgery may be offered if you have concerns about a noticeable scar, the length or symmetry of your lip, or the way the muscles move your lip.

The decision to have surgery is entirely yours. You may be offered an appointment with a clinical psychologist to help you decide if surgery is the right option for you and to get any support you may need.

You can come back to see the Cleft Team at any age, even as an adult. We don't want you to feel rushed in to making a decision.

What happens in surgery?

Surgery is carried out under general anaesthetic (you would be asleep during surgery). Surgery is slightly different for everyone depending on their specific concerns but all surgery would involve a new scar. Lip revision surgery cannot be done without creating a new scar but these are placed in areas that should improve how your lip looks.

What about after the surgery?

You would probably need to stay in hospital overnight following surgery. You will have stitches in your lip, which are normally self-dissolving. You may be asked to apply an antibiotic cream to the scar whilst the stitches are in.

Once the stitches are out, the scar might be red for up to three to six months and can take up to a year to settle into a fine line. The scar will also appear shorter in length over time. Your surgeon will see you in clinic again about six weeks after surgery to check how you are doing.

We advise that you use extra sun protection at all times, ideally SPF 50. This will help protect the delicate skin where your scar is.

Is there anything else I should know?

If you are 16 or older, you will have your surgery at an adult hospital. Please see our information leaflet on the adult hospital for further information about what to expect from your visit. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask a member of the team and we will do our best to help.

Should you decide to go ahead with surgery, your surgeon will talk to you about smoking and drinking alcohol. This is because they can affect how well you heal after surgery.

It is strongly recommended that you do not smoke or drink in the time before or after your surgery. Please let us know if you need support around this.