



Facts About **CLEFT CONDITION**

A cleft is a separation of the lip and/or palate (the roof of the mouth). A child may be born with a cleft lip (Unilateral, one side; Bilateral, both sides), a cleft palate, or both.

Cleft conditions are now the most common birth anomalies in the United States, occurring in approximately one of 600 births. More than 6,800 babies are born with these deformities in the United States each year. (Source: Cleft Palate Foundation website)

The cause of cleft lip and/or cleft palate is unknown, although a combination of genetic and environmental factors are suspected. There appears to be a greater chance of a newborn being cleft affected if a sibling, parent, or relative has had the condition.

A cleft lip is usually repaired at 3 to 6 months of age and a cleft palate is usually repaired around 10 - 12 months of age.