

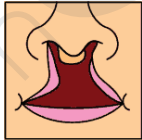

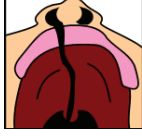
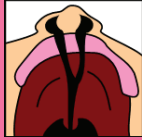


# CLEFT LIP & PALATE MANAGEMENT

Cleft lip is characterized by a slit or opening that goes through the lip and into the nose on one or both sides of the lip. Cleft palate is an opening in the roof of the mouth, called the palate, which could also be one or both sides. Cleft lip and cleft palate may occur together or individually.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	IMAGE
<b>Unilateral Incomplete Cleft Lip</b>	Incomplete cleft lip does not extend all the way up to the nose	
<b>Unilateral Complete Cleft Lip</b>	Complete cleft lip extends the full width of the lip, up to the nose	
<b>Bilateral Complete Cleft Lip</b>	Bilateral means there are two clefts that have formed in the lip	
<b>Incomplete Cleft Palate</b>	An incomplete cleft palate does not extend all the way to the gum-line/teeth-line	
<b>Unilateral Complete Cleft Lip and Palate</b>	A complete cleft palate extends through the gum/teeth line and often also includes a cleft lip	
<b>Bilateral Complete cleft Lip and Palate</b>	Two clefts have formed in the palate and extend all the way to the front, including the lip	

## Priorities for Nursing Care:

- Assess and monitor respiratory status in case of aspiration
- Have suction and oxygen available at all times
- Prevent aspiration using special aspiration and feeding precautions
  - Special sucking devices
  - Sitting upright
- Monitor weight and nutritional intake
  - May require a feeding tube
  - May require TPN if severe reflux is present
- Assess for abdominal distention - may indicate the infant is getting too much air in the stomach during feeding
- Prepare infant and family for possible surgical repair