



Feeding the Infant with Cleft Lip and Palate

<i>Cleft Type</i>	<i>Implications for Breastfeeding</i>	<i>Implications for Bottle Feeding</i>	<i>Feeding Options</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
Cleft Lip Only	Infant will likely be able to feed efficiently with few adaptations.	Infant will likely be able to feed efficiently with few adaptations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breast • Bottle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor growth. • Refer to Lactation Center if difficulties with breastfeeding present. • Refer to Outpatient Feeding Team if difficulties with bottle feeding present.
Cleft Palate Only	Cleft will prevent infant from achieving negative pressure to express breast milk. Infant can be put to breast for bonding/comfort. Infant may be able to take some liquid with supplemental nursing system.	Cleft will prevent infant from achieving negative pressure to express breast milk or formula from nipple. Infant will require adapted bottle to feed successfully.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty Bottle • Breast for bonding/comfort • Breast with supplemental nursing system, but may need to further supplement with specialty bottle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor growth. • Refer to Outpatient Feeding Team for bottle selection and feeding techniques. • Refer to Lactation Center for assistance with supplemental nursing system. • Encourage time at the breast for bonding and comfort.
Cleft Lip and Palate	Cleft will prevent infant from achieving negative pressure to express breast milk. Infant can be put to breast for bonding/comfort. Infant may be able to take some liquid with supplemental nursing system.	Cleft will prevent infant from achieving negative pressure to express breast milk or formula from nipple. Infant will require specialty bottle to feed successfully.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty Bottle • Breast for bonding/comfort • Breast with supplemental nursing system, but may need to further supplement with specialty bottle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor growth. • Refer to Outpatient Feeding Team for bottle selection and feeding techniques. • Refer to Lactation Center for assistance with supplemental nursing system. • Encourage time at the breast for bonding and comfort.