

Our Team

Audiologists
Craniofacial Surgeons
Dieticians
Geneticist
Genetic Counselors
Neurosurgeons
Nurse Practitioner
Nurses
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
Orthodontists
Otorhinolaryngologists (ENT)
Pediatrician
Pediatric Anesthesiologists
Pediatric Dentists and Prosthodontists
Pediatric Radiologists
Plastic Surgeons
Physician Assistant
Program Coordinator
Social Workers
Speech Language Pathologists



THE CLEFT AND CRANIOFACIAL CENTER AT CHILDREN'S OF ALABAMA utilizes a team approach of comprehensive care that includes the referring physician. The patient referral process is designed to be straightforward and simple for the referring office and the patient.



Shelby Svientek, M.D.



René Myers, M.D.

For more information, call or visit:

PLASTIC SURGERY

tel: 205.638.9369
fax: 205.638.5340

NEUROSURGERY

tel: 205.638.9653
fax: 205.638.9972

Visit our website by
scanning this code



Children's of Alabama
1600 7th Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

Cleft and Craniofacial Center



Children's
of Alabama®

UAB MEDICINE

Our Mission

We are an interdisciplinary team of specialists whose mission is to deliver the highest quality treatment for patients with facial differences. We strive to do so in a thoughtful and compassionate manner, providing support and reassurance to the families of our patients.

At UAB Cleft and Craniofacial Center at Children's of Alabama, we are committed to providing the highest standard of interdisciplinary cleft and craniofacial care as an American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association (ACPA) Approved Team. Being approved by ACPA means we meet rigorous standards to ensure our patients receive expert, coordinated and compassionate treatment at every stage of their journey. We are proud to be an ACPA Approved Team!

Timeline

- We strive to see patients as early as possible to begin our team-based care and planning, typically within 1–2 weeks after birth or hospital discharge. The first visit is often busy but very productive. You will meet most members of the team and leave with a comprehensive plan for your child's care.
- As part of our comprehensive approach, we may recommend orthodontic devices depending on your child's specific needs. If these devices are needed, visits are typically required monthly for the first 3–4 months.
- We aim to repair cleft lips around 4 months of age; however, timing may vary based on factors such as weight gain and overall health. Our top priority is a healthy child and a successful initial repair.
- Cleft palate repair is generally planned between 10–14 months of age, though this may also vary depending on growth, health, and scheduling. Again, our priority is a safe and successful first repair.
- Additional procedures may be part of the overall cleft care journey. These can include:
 - Ear tubes, often placed at the time of cleft lip repair or around 4–6 months
 - CO₂ laser revision of lip scarring (at the time of palate repair)
 - Lip or nose revision, as needed (around 5–6 years)
 - Bone grafting (around 8–10 years)
 - Jaw surgery (around 8–16 years)
 - Velopharyngeal insufficiency (VPI) surgery (as needed, typically 5–18 years)
 - Nasal revision in later adolescence
- Every child is unique. Our multidisciplinary team works together to develop a personalized care plan tailored to your child.
- We follow children from birth through young adulthood, involving different team members at each stage of care based on their growth and development.
- We look forward to walking this cleft journey with your family and supporting you every step of the way.

Pre and Post Surgery

