

Children's Surgery

DISCLAIMER:

Please read the following points:

- The details supplied on this website are for information purposes only and full medical details should be obtained from Mr Mutimer at a pre-arranged appointment
- All details supplied by people who log onto this site are confidential and are safely secured by this website only. However, if you do not wish to add details to this website there is the option of performing this via the office on telephone: 9592 0522 or by fax on 9592 0320.
- All patient photos and literature on this website are firstly consented to and signed by the patient themselves

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Mr Mutimer is highly experienced in surgery for cleft lip and cleft palate, facial deformities, and brachial plexus surgery. He has worked extensively overseas and has been:

- ❑ Chief Resident of Plastic Surgery at the Children's Hospital in Brigham and Boston, in the USA.
- ❑ Fellow in Plastic Surgery at Oxford University in England,
- ❑ Locum Chief Surgeon at the Lautoka Hospital in Fiji
- ❑ Resident under a program at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
- ❑ Deputy Head of the Department at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

Mr. Mutimer has been involved with Interplast Australia, which has been one of his most rewarding projects. He and his surgical team has been to various third world countries where he has performed cleft lip and palate surgery, burns or other congenital deformities on children and adults in orphanages. This surgery has given them self-confidence and a new life, which would not have been possible for them otherwise.

Some of the countries Mr. Mutimer has worked in are China, Fiji, Tonga, The Philippines, Vanuatu and Vietnam. In March 2002 he will be working in Sri Lanka.

Interplast is a non-profit organization that relies upon donations from groups such as Rotary, and both the public and corporate sponsors. You are able to contribute to this very worthwhile cause by contacting them at:

Interplast Australia

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Spring Road
MELBOURNE 3000
Telephone: 03 9249 1231
All donations are tax deductible

CLEFT LIP

Cleft lip surgery is performed on babies who have a split in the upper lip. This operation is usually performed at 12 weeks, depending on the baby's health. Sometimes a cleft lip is associated with a cleft palate but not always. Surgery successfully gives the lip a normal looking appearance and function. In most cases it is almost impossible to notice that a baby has had this treatment. (The scar generally takes between 6-12 months to fade.) Often the nose is also deformed, and is repaired at the same time as the palate or lip surgery.

CLEFT PALATE

Cleft palate surgery is a split in the roof of the mouth. There may be a cleft of the soft or hard palate and sometimes both. The split in the palate is clearly visible. Sometimes there is a split in the uvula, which is not as visible, making it harder to detect until a child's speech develops. Correction of the problem is necessary for speech development, otherwise the child's speech will sound nasally and distorted.

The palate itself stops food and fluid from entering the nose when drinking and eating, and is repaired by closing the gap in the roof of the mouth and repairing damaged muscles. Palate surgery is performed between 6-12 months before speech develops. Admission is generally for 3 days.

Some children may require further treatment as they mature. There are a number of services that will provide help in this process.

Some of the treatments required as your child gets older are:

- ❑ Speech training by a speech pathologist
- ❑ Audiology (hearing tests)
- ❑ Ear, Nose and Throat procedures (i.e. Eustachian tubes inserted in the ears)
- ❑ Adenoid and Tonsil removal
- ❑ Regular dental check-ups (orthodontic treatment)
- ❑ Further surgery (correction of the jaw should it grow abnormally)
- ❑ Psychological advice

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the rooms for a booklet relating to the above surgery on 9592 0522 or the Royal Children's Hospital (Marcelle McLaughlin) on 9345 6582.

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BIRTH-RELATED BRACHIAL PLEXUS

Birth related brachial plexus is a condition that occurs in large birth weight babies, and is associated with shoulder dystocia. Fortunately, the majority of babies born with this condition improve spontaneously and only require physiotherapy. If they do not improve, nerve exploration and repair is necessary. Children are required to be in hospital for a three-day period and are then placed in a sling for 3 weeks.

Following this, physiotherapy is recommended to decrease the risk of shoulder stiffness. Regular checks will be made of your child's progress.

Does my hospital insurance cover the surgery?

All the above surgeries have MBS item numbers attached to them. Therefore, your hospital fees are covered by insurance.

Both Mr. Mutimer's fee and the anaesthetist's fee are claimable from Medicare and private insurance, however there may be some out of pocket expense. The patient care-coordinator will thoroughly explain the fees to you and print a detailed account summary.
