

The Pediatric Craniofacial Center at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center provides advanced healing for children and young adults with medical conditions involving the face, skull and jaw.

Our expert medical staff works together in and out of the operating room to provide seamless care to patients. A multidisciplinary team meets frequently to create a plan of care for each patient tailored to their individual needs. We have dedicated pediatric specialists in:

- audiology
- critical care/intensive care
- pediatric dentistry
- developmental pediatrics
- pediatric genetics
- neonatology
- neurology
- pediatric neurosurgery
- pediatric ophthalmology and oculoplastic surgery
- pediatric oral and maxillofacial surgery
- pediatric orthodontics
- pediatric otolaryngology (head and neck surgery)
- physical and occupational therapy
- facial plastic surgery
- social work
- pediatric speech pathology
- pediatric sleep medicine



Our goal is to return patients back to normal activities as soon as possible. That's why we use the most advanced surgical treatments, including the latest minimally invasive surgical techniques. We get children back to the business of being children.

Pediatric Craniofacial



The Pediatric Craniofacial Center at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical Center

Caring for children
and young adults
with face, skull
and jaw medical
conditions

To make an appointment at
The Pediatric Craniofacial Center at
New York Presbyterian Hospital/
Weill Cornell Medical Center,

please call **212-746-1274** or
e-mail Charlotte Palmero, Program Coordinator,
at chp2027@med.cornell.edu

Learn more at our website:
[http://cornellneurosurgery.org/pedneuro/
craniofacial_program.html](http://cornellneurosurgery.org/pedneuro/craniofacial_program.html)

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/
Weill Cornell Medical Center cares
about children. One in every 200
babies born will require specialized
care for congenital disorders
such as cleft lip and palate or
craniosynostosis. Even more children
need advanced reconstructive
surgical care for other diseases or
traumatic injury.



Our Services and Referring Professionals

We care about patient comfort and convenience. When a family comes to the Pediatric Craniofacial Center, they see all the specialists they need to see — whether it's two or ten — in one place, in one session. Afterwards, our experts consult to create a personalized treatment plan to meet each patient's needs, from the moment of initial consultation through treatment and beyond.

Referring doctors are important to us. When a patient is referred by a pediatrician or any medical professional, we make sure to contact them immediately about our recommendations for treatment. We work with all providers to make sure patients receive coordinated and complete care.

A Network of Support

Children with craniofacial disorders may suffer both physically and psychologically by their altered appearance. Our goal is to allow these children to reach their full potential, one which is not defined by their physical condition. We take a comprehensive approach to their care to make sure their life's outlook is as bright as it should be for any child.

That's why our team includes specialists who can help these children gain a level of physical and social functioning — and confidence — to help them experience life the way any child should. We also ask parents what kinds of burdens they may be facing in their lives and help them address any social concerns they may have.

Parents may also meet with other parents who have already experienced what they are going through — people who are willing to share their stories and lend support and comfort.

We specialize in the following conditions:

Craniosynostosis

This disorder results from premature closure or fusion of one or more of the sutures in the skull, the place where the bones of the skull join. This slowed growth of the skull results in an altered head shape. If untreated, this abnormal shape worsens during early life and can rarely restrict brain expansion. These deformities are successfully treated with effective and safe surgical procedures aimed at releasing the fused suture and recontouring the bones. Our surgeons also offer a minimally invasive corrective procedure, a technique which relies on smaller incisions and is associated with less blood loss and a shorter hospital stay. We are able to remodel the skull and restore the head and facial skeleton to a more normal appearance.

Deformational Plagiocephaly

Deformational plagiocephaly, also known as positional molding, is the most common cause of a misshapen skull in infants. Causes of deformational plagiocephaly include applied pressure to the back of the head while the child is sleeping on their back, muscular torticollis and prematurity. Positional molding is expected to improve without any treatment over the course of the child's first year of life. Some improvement can be accelerated with simple behavior modifications by stimulating the child to spend more time on the non-flattened side of the back of the head or by wearing orthotic helmet devices.



Cleft Lip and Palate

Cleft lip and palate care is exceptional and is led by a team of facial plastic surgeons and pediatric otolaryngologists at the Pediatric Craniofacial Center. Our spectrum of care extends from early prenatal life into adulthood, ranging from in-utero ultrasonography and advanced genetic testing & counseling, to surgical correction of cleft lip and palate in the first years of life. We provide close developmental monitoring for each child, in a comprehensive multidisciplinary team setting. We continue to care for your child into adulthood and our treatment goal is focused on all social, cosmetic, and functional aspects of cleft lip and palate, including speech, velopharyngeal insufficiency, and hearing.

Velopharyngeal Insufficiency

Using cutting edge distal chip technology, our Pediatric Otolaryngologists team up with pediatric speech pathologists to perform nasopharyngoscopy. The team then meets to arrive at a specialized treatment regimen, which is unique to each patient. Many patients who have had cleft palate surgery will suffer from velopharyngeal insufficiency (VPI). Our surgeons have years of clinical experience in complicated VPI surgery, which includes pharyngeal flap, sphincteroplasty, intervelar veloplasty, furlow palatoplasty, and cleft palate surgery.

Complex Congenital Anomalies

Infants born with syndromic conditions such as hemifacial microsomia, Aperts, Treacher Collins or Crouzon syndromes require coordinated care and often complex surgical procedures. Other parts of the body may also be affected. The extensive network of collaborating specialists at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center is available to patients with craniofacial syndromes to ensure that all of their care can be delivered in one place.

Other areas in which we specialize include:

- Craniofacial tumors
- Cleft rhinoplasty
- Orthognathic surgery
- Comprehensive dental care

Director



MARK SOUWEIDANE, MD, FAAP, FACS is Director of the Pediatric Craniofacial Center. He is the Vice Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery and the Director of Pediatric Neurological Surgery at the Weill Cornell Medical College. He is also a professor of Neurological Surgery and Pediatrics. Dr. Souweidane is a board certified neurosurgeon by the American Board of Neurological Surgery and the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery. He has been voted as one of "Americas Best Doctors" and one of the best neurosurgeons in New York by New York Magazine. He has gained international acclaim in minimally invasive endoscopic neurosurgery.

Program Coordinator



CHARLOTTE PALMERO, MS is the program coordinator of the Pediatric Craniofacial Center. She received her training at Sarah Lawrence College in Human Genetics and also serves as a genetic counselor for the craniofacial team. Charlotte has a sincere passion and interest in working with children born with orofacial clefts.

Our Craniofacial Team

