THE SPEECH THERAPY OF CLEFT PALATE PATIENTS AS
AN ORAL REHABILITATION

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The purpose of speech therapy:

The patients can get the normal speech until going into the elementary school. This purpose will success through several steps.

Step 1.

0 years old Patients are referred to the speech therapist by oral surgeon.

Evaluation
1) mental development
2) motor development
3) language and articulation development
4) hearing
5) the relationship between the mother and the baby
6) feeding
7) how to use the toys and speak to a baby
8) other problems
→
mother education: advice to make a good environment for children development.

Step 2.

1.5 years old palatoplasty speech therapy starts one month after the operation. The frequency is once a month.

Evaluation
1) language and speech development
2) velopharyngeal function (blowing test, mirror test, and nasality)
3) articulation development
4) hearing
5) mother education
6) others: swallowing.
Flow chart of the speech therapy

Step 3.

4 years old Speech disorders become apparent.
If the patient has the problems, the frequency to come to the speech therapy is once a week. But the frequency is the case by case.

Evaluation
1) articulation
2) velopharyngeal function (blowing test, mirror test, cephalogram, nasal fiberscope and nasality)
3) hearing
4) others.

Flow chart of the speech therapy

Note: Team approach is necessary to treat cleft palate patients.