



# Referral Patterns of Neonatal Healthcare Professionals for Cleft Lip and Palate Patients

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## INTRODUCTION

Cleft Lip and Palate patients are some of the most vulnerable and complex orthodontic patients. They face a myriad of health challenges including psychological, nutritional, auditory, speech, airway, skeletal, and dental. Ideal comprehensive treatment for CLP patients is provided via multidisciplinary teams of healthcare providers. However, there is currently limited access to proper multidisciplinary care for CLP patients in the US, partly due to lack of education regarding available resources. For the most effective treatment and optimal outcomes, it is essential that coordinated care starts at birth and that parental education begins as soon as CLP is detected in utero. This research aims to improve CLP care by raising awareness amongst healthcare professionals regarding craniofacial orthodontic care for these patients, proper treatment sequencing, and local resources available. This study will utilize pre-/post-surveys to determine whether or not an educational program delivered in CE course format is effective in producing the desired changes to neonatal healthcare professionals' referral patterns regarding CLCP patients.

## OBJECTIVES

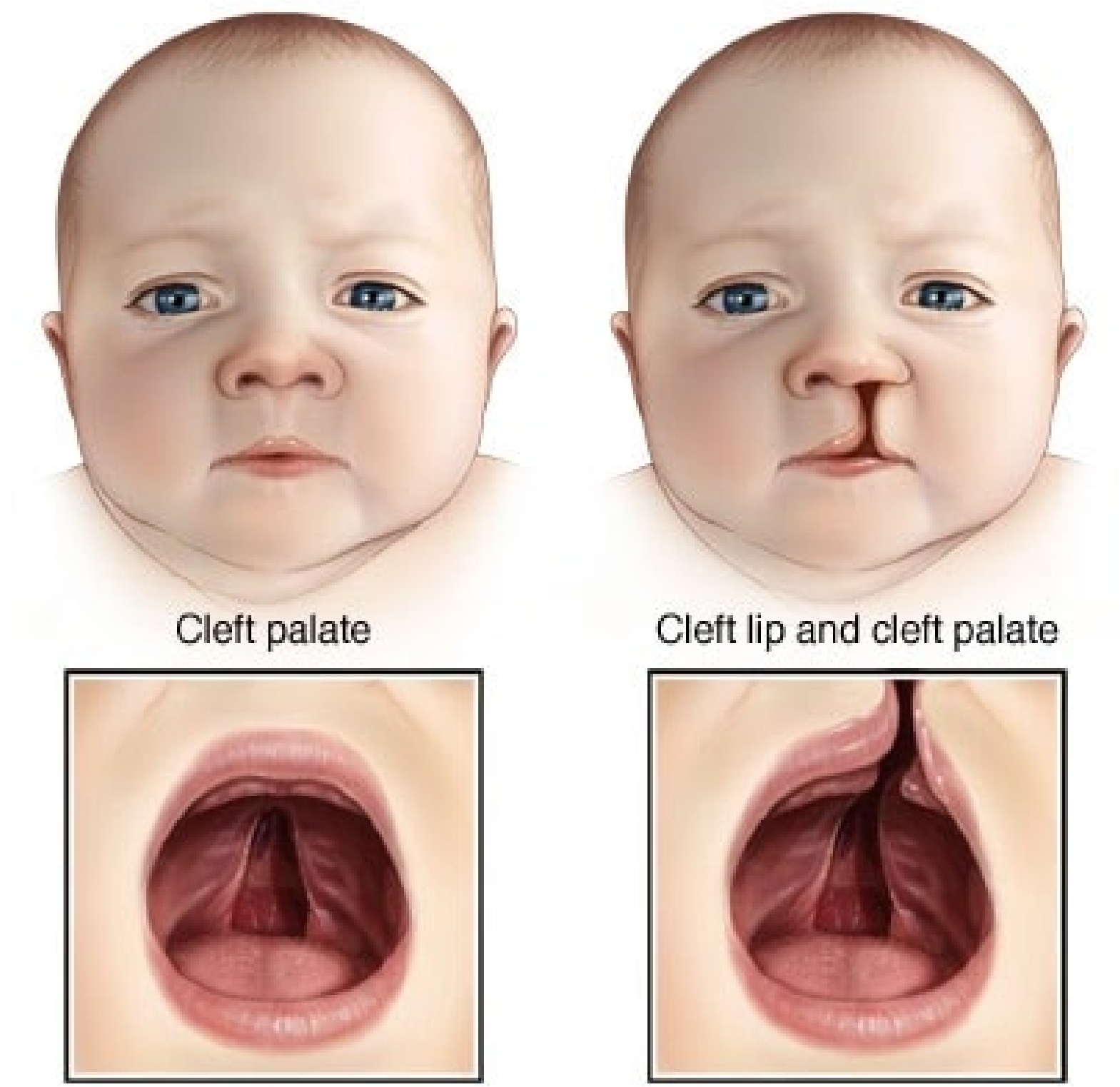
1. To determine existing CLP orthodontic treatment knowledge, experience, and management protocols amongst neonatal healthcare professionals.
2. To determine whether or not a curated educational presentation will affect this knowledge and subsequent referral patterns.

## NULL HYPOTHESES

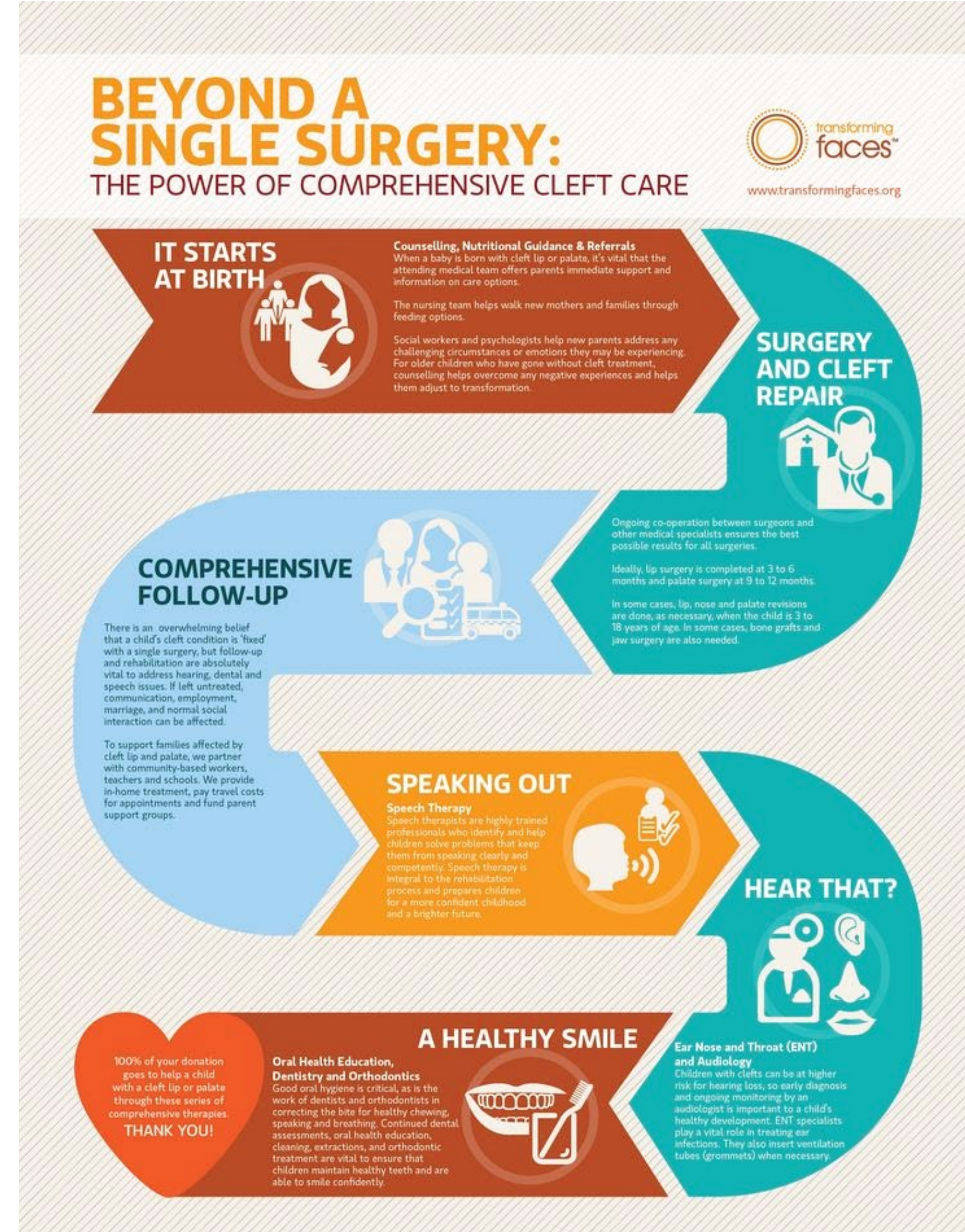
1. Neonatal healthcare professionals will have no prior knowledge, experience, or management protocols regarding CLP orthodontic treatment.
2. Neonatal healthcare providers' knowledge on the above topics and subsequent referral patterns will not change after attending an educational presentation.

## METHODS

1. Data collection initiated after IRB approval
2. Appropriate subjects identified and assembled for a Roseman-hosted CE course
3. Pre-survey questionnaire administered to all subjects in attendance
4. Educational program delivered
5. Post-survey questionnaire administered to same subject group as in Step 3
6. Statistical analysis performed to correlate pre- and post-survey data



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## VARIABLES

**Control:** Pre-survey subject responses  
**Dependent:** Post-survey subject responses  
**Independent:** Neonatal healthcare provider knowledge of CLP orthodontic treatment/subsequent referral patterns after attending an educational program

## RESEARCH DESIGN & SAMPLE

- Randomized controlled trial research design
- Sample size will depend on the conferences selected and number of neonatal healthcare providers in attendance

## INCLUSION & EXCLUSION CRITERIA

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|--|---|
| <p><b>Inclusion Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All neonatal healthcare professionals in attendance at CE course</li> </ul> | <p><b>Exclusion Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey questions are designed to elucidate individual exposure to CLP patients and thus exclude subjects who do not deal with this specific patient population from the study</li> </ul> |
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## STATISTICS

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 27.0 will be used to run the following analysis:

- T-Test or ANOVA analog with post hoc testing for quantitative continuous data
- Chi square test for demographic and educational background correlating factors

## REFERENCES

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