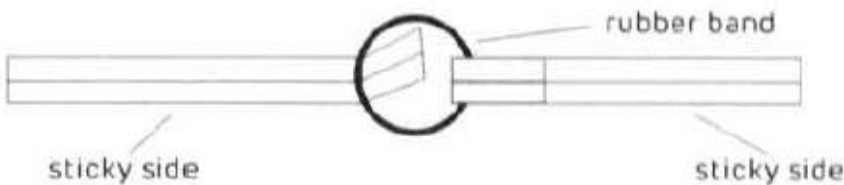


Lip Taping Before Unilateral or One- Sided Cleft Lip Repair

Sometimes, a cleft of the lip can be made smaller before surgery by using tape and small rubber bands to gently move the edges of the cleft closer together. The skin and muscles of the face in infants are soft and can be molded slowly and gently over weeks or months. This makes the cleft easier to repair with surgery.

HOW TO APPLY THE TAPE AND RUBBER BAND

You will use one steri-strip cut in half and one rubber band, like this:



- Cut the steri-strip into two $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pieces.
- Put one end of the first piece through the rubber band and fold it back over itself.
- Do the same thing on the other side of the rubber band using the second piece, making sure that the sticky side of the tape is facing the same direction on both sides.
- Trim the pieces to the right length to stick on your child's face.
- Put one end of the tape on one cheek.
- Gently squeeze the two parts of the lip together, and pull the tape across, stretching the rubber band to twice its size. Stick the other end of the tape to the other cheek.

You should see small creases between the nose and the cheeks, but these will not be permanent.

Try to line up the skin between the nostrils so it is as straight as possible.

Use the tape 24 hours a day. You can feed your baby with the tapes in place. Change the tapes when they get loose or are falling off. Tapes should be changed at least once a day.

If your baby's cheeks get red or irritated, leave the tapes off for several hours and gently wash their face with water to get rid of any adhesive that stays on the face. If the redness or irritation doesn't get better, please call the Plastic Surgery Office at 720-777-6409 or the cleft office at 720-777-2574. We may recommend that you put some protective covering for your baby's cheeks.