



MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
THE MARY ANN KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PEDIATRICS
FOUNDED AS VARIETY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

We're here for the children

CHILDREN'S HEALTH TALK

A Miami Children's Hospital Community Update, April 2006

TREATING FACIAL DIFFERENCES

For Vanessa Castro, learning that her second child was going to be a girl was bittersweet news. "I went for an ultrasound when I was 14 weeks pregnant. The minute they told me she was a girl, I just knew," she said.

Having been born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate herself, Castro recalls begging the ultrasound technician to take a look at the baby's face. Later, the doctor confirmed Castro's fear: her baby would, indeed, be born with a unilateral cleft lip and palate, a separation of parts of the lip, or roof of the mouth that did not close during the early months of fetal development.

Cleft lip and/or palate occur in approximately one in 700 births. The exact cause of this facial difference is not known, although most experts believe it is due to both environmental and genetic factors.



Vanessa Castro and daughter Lara.

Because of her own experience, Castro knew what to do. She contacted Dr. S. Anthony Wolfe, her plastic surgeon and Director of the Division of Plastic Surgery at Miami Children's Hospital. Dr. Wolfe told her about the Craniofacial Center he was a part of at Miami Children's. After visiting the center, Castro knew she would bring her daughter there.

Now nearly 1 and a half years old, little Lara Castro has already had two surgeries, and more are planned for the future.

"The craniofacial team is like my extended family," Castro said. "They have made it easy for us to care for Lara. They guide you and let you know what to expect."

The Importance of the Craniofacial Team

"When a baby has a facial difference, the family typically is worried about what will happen. They ask themselves what challenges they will face, and who will take care of their baby," explained Mislen Bauer, M.D., Director of the Craniofacial Center at Miami Children's Hospital.

One of their major concerns is identifying the myriad specialists needed to meet the child's individual needs. In the past, parents would travel from specialist to specialist, and from surgeon to surgeon, very few of whom tried to consolidate their child's care.

However, when the Craniofacial Center opened just over a

decade ago, a dramatic change took place. For the first time, families would be introduced to the full array of specialists who would be treating their child – all in one place and in one visit. In a single appointment, the craniofacial team would evaluate the child's special needs using a multidisciplinary approach.

"No two children with facial anomalies are alike in their care needs...each requires a comprehensive assessment and a personalized surgical care plan."

— Dr. S. Anthony Wolfe, Director of Plastic Surgery

The process begins with an evaluation by a team of specialists, including a plastic surgeon, otolaryngologist, dentist, orthodontist, speech pathologist, audiologist, geneticist, psychologist and social worker, among others.

Following the evaluation, the team members deliver a diagnosis and their recommendations for a treatment plan.

When surgery is required, patients benefit from the expertise of some of the nation's top plastic and reconstructive surgeons specializing in the care of children with facial anomalies.

"No two children with facial anomalies are alike in their care needs," said Dr. Wolfe. "Each requires a comprehensive assessment and a personalized surgical care plan. The specialized focus and collective experience of the plastic and reconstructive team at Miami Children's helps bring about optimal results for the children in our care."

Dr. Bauer said "Our craniofacial multidisciplinary team works closely together, providing the best care plan for each child. It takes a great deal of effort to coordinate all of these specialists, but it's really best for the child. This is our approach; it's what we do and the patients and families love it because they see us all working together, for their benefit and convenience,"

Nationally and Internationally Recognized Expertise

The Miami Children's Craniofacial Center is one of Florida's state-designated specialty centers for children with craniofacial differences, and has been recognized worldwide for its expert care of children with craniofacial anomalies.

The center offers comprehensive care for infants, children and young adults with both congenital and acquired craniofacial disorders, including:

- Cleft lip and/or palate
- Pierre Robin sequence
- Apert syndrome
- Crouzon syndrome
- Hemifacial microsomia
- Moebius syndrome
- Treacher Collins, and others

"Parents of a child with a facial difference typically ask questions such as: Why did this happen? Can it be corrected? How can it be corrected? and, What is the prognosis for my child?" Dr. Bauer commented.

Through Miami Children's unique multidisciplinary team approach, many of these questions are easily answered.

In addition, the highly specialized resources at Miami Children's are numerous. Consider the following:

- Geneticists are able to perform genetic testing to help sort out how the facial difference occurred
- Pediatric radiologists are able to perform highly complex three-dimensional (3-D) radiological scans that enable the plastic surgeons to see what the baby's bones look like under the skin as they begin to reconstruct a baby's face
- Pediatric anesthesiologists are trained to intubate children with these complex needs using extremely small fiber optic endoscopy tubes

Amazing Achievements

Since its inception ten years ago, the Craniofacial Center at Miami Children's Hospital has treated over 1,000 children, with one success after another.



Dr. Mislen Bauer, Director of the Craniofacial Center at Miami Children's Hospital (left) and Dr. S. Anthony Wolfe, Director of Plastic Surgery (right).

The story of one child, Juliana Wetmore, was the subject of the recent Discovery Channel TLC documentary, "Born Without a Face," which captured the hearts of millions of viewers. Born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, Juliana has already had a dozen operations through the Craniofacial Center to repair her face. Doctors estimate she will need at least 30 more surgeries during her lifetime.

Based on the popularity of Juliana's story, TLC gave MCH and Discovery Communications, Inc. the opportunity to produce a 10-part series about the Craniofacial Center. The series premiered on April 5, 2006. Titled *The Facemakers*, "the goal of the series is to educate the world about children with craniofacial differences," says Dr. Bauer.

"These kids are just like other kids on the inside...they like to have fun, play, and spend time with their friends," she said. "Our goal, as a team, is to help these children grow into happy, healthy adults. That's the target, that's what we strive for. That's the ultimate goal of everything we do."

"Our goal, as a team, is to help these children grow into happy, healthy adults...That's the ultimate goal of everything we do."

— Dr. Mislen Bauer, Director of the Craniofacial Center at Miami Children's Hospital.



SEE THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE ON THE LEARNING CHANNEL

To see the MCH Craniofacial Center team at work, watch *The Facemakers* series on The Learning Channel. This 10-part series features the lives and medical treatments of Miami Children's Hospital Craniofacial Center patients. The program airs at 9 p.m. and 12 a.m. Wednesdays from April to June 7. Check your local cable listing for channel information.

For a referral to a Miami Children's Hospital physician, please call 888-MCH-DOCS (624-3627).

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CALENDAR

Infant Massage

May 3, 4 & 5; 10:30 am – 12 pm

Parents will learn the art of infant massage and be guided through instruction on how to massage their babies. Parents will receive a complimentary bottle of massage oil and Baby's First Touch: Step by Step Book. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.

Certified Infant Massage Instructor Course

May 3, 4 & 5; 8 am – 4:30 pm

Participants will become certified to teach parents to massage their newborns and children. This three-day training is presented through lecture, discussion and hands-on participation. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.

New Sibling Class

Saturday, May 13; 10 am – 12 pm

This program is designed to prepare children ages 3 and older for a new brother or sister. Positive sibling skills will be presented in a fun, interactive way that teaches children the important contributions they can make as big brothers or sisters. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.

Allergic Reactions in Children

Wednesday, May 17; 6 pm – 7 pm

Do you know that allergic children can have severe life-

threatening reactions to insect bites and certain food items? If your child suffers from any kind of allergic response, join us to learn the signs of an impending allergic reaction, preventive measures and immediate steps that you can take to save your child's life in the event of a severe allergic reaction. Dr. José Carro, will discuss how parents and caretakers can identify and provide immediate care to children suffering from serious allergic reactions. Please call 305-662-8282 to register.

Finding Health Information on the Internet

Wednesday, May 17; 6 pm – 7:30 pm

Learn how to locate information easily on the internet. MCH's medical library director will guide you to find helpful information on medical conditions. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.

Mental Health Challenges for Today's Youth

Thursday, May 18; 6 pm – 8 pm

Presentations will include: The "New Addictions" including "club drugs" and the latest illegal drugs, self injurious behaviors in youth, suicide and depression during adolescence, altered mental status and onset of bi-polar disorder in children. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.

CPR Class

Monday, May 22; 6 pm – 8 pm

This course in pediatric CPR teaches parents, grandparents and caregivers how to administer CPR to infants and children. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.