

*Worldwide, a baby with a cleft is born every 3 minutes.
We believe that every child with cleft lip and/or palate deserves a smile.*

CLEFT LIP AND/OR PALATE: CAUSES FACTS V/S SUPERSTITIONS

It's a **GENE**, NOT a **GENIE**!

Facts

- The exact causes of cleft lip and palate have not been identified yet by researchers.
- A result of a combination of factors, but definitely not superstitions!

Not Superstitions



Not Eclipse!!!

Not Black Magic!!!



Not Karma!!!



Not Evil Spirit!!!



Causes

Environmental factors:

- Exposure of mother to tobacco smoking
- Alcohol consumption
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Certain medication

Causes

Genetic Factors:

- Can be associated with genetic conditions like Van der Woude syndrome, Median facial dysplasia syndrome, and Pierre Robin Sequence.
- Can also be associated with anomalies in the structure of chromosomes like velocardiofacial syndrome, along with trisomy 13 and 18
- Higher risk of cleft can be inherited from the child's parents.

Prevention

A case of cleft lip & palate does not have one clear cause.

--> So no way to completely prevent them!

- Genetic counseling prior to planning a baby
- Avoiding intra-family marriages which can increase the risk of a cleft in babies
- Adopting a healthy lifestyle during a pregnancy

Other Facts!

Cleft lip/palate and craniosynostosis are usually picked up in routine ante-natal ultrasounds and this gives the families time to understand and decide the further management and intervention after their child is born.

For all queries, do not hesitate to contact Cleft Care Mauritius by sending us a message on Facebook.