


# Cleft lip and palate

Nicole Revencu  
16/04/2024



Cliniques universitaires  
**SAINT-LUC**  
UCL BRUXELLES

1

## outline

- lip and palate embryological development
- characteristics – classification – prevalence
- clinical approach
- etiology of syndromic and non-syndromic cleft
- genetic testing
- genetic counselling



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

2

2

### birth defects : mechanisms

*Raoul C. Hennekam, AJMG, 2013*

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

3

3

### birth defects : mechanisms

secondary to amniotic bands (rare)

*Human Malformations and Related Anomalies, 2nd Ed. Oxford Univ Press, 2006.*

*Raoul C. Hennekam, AJMG, 2013*

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

4

4

## **cleft lip and/or palate - general considerations**

one of the most frequent birth defects

the most common craniofacial structural birth defect

group of disorders characterised by clinical and genetic heterogeneity

major problems : severe feeding problems, speech difficulties, frequent middle ear infections and dental defects

require long-term multidisciplinary treatments from the diagnosis (prenatal or postnatal) until the end of growth, around the age of 20 years

heavy burden for patients/families and the healthcare system



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur



5

## **lip and palate development**



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur



6

### lip and palate embryological development

derive from the cranial neuronal crest cells

proliferation  
migration  
differentiation  
apoptosis  
fusion

16 days      22days      32 days

morphogenesis of pharyngeal arches and their derivatives

*Biology* 2022, 11(2), 153; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biology11020153>

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

7

### lip and palate embryological development

#### lip development

medial nasal processes form:

- upper lip philtrum
- the primary palate
- 4 incisory teeth

maxillary processes form

- remainder of the upper lip
- secondary palate

#### palate development

4      5      6      7      10

gestational weeks

*Nat Rev Genet.* 2011 Mar; 12(3): 167–178.

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

8

### lip and palate embryological development

**A. Schematic of human palatogenesis (inferior view)**

Primary palate  
Palatal shelf

Maxillary prominence  
Intermaxillary segment

**B. Coronal histological sections through murine palatogenesis**

**C. Schematic of palatogenesis**

mesenchymal cell    periderm cell    epithelial cell

*Biology* 2022, 11(2), 153; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biology11020153>

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

9

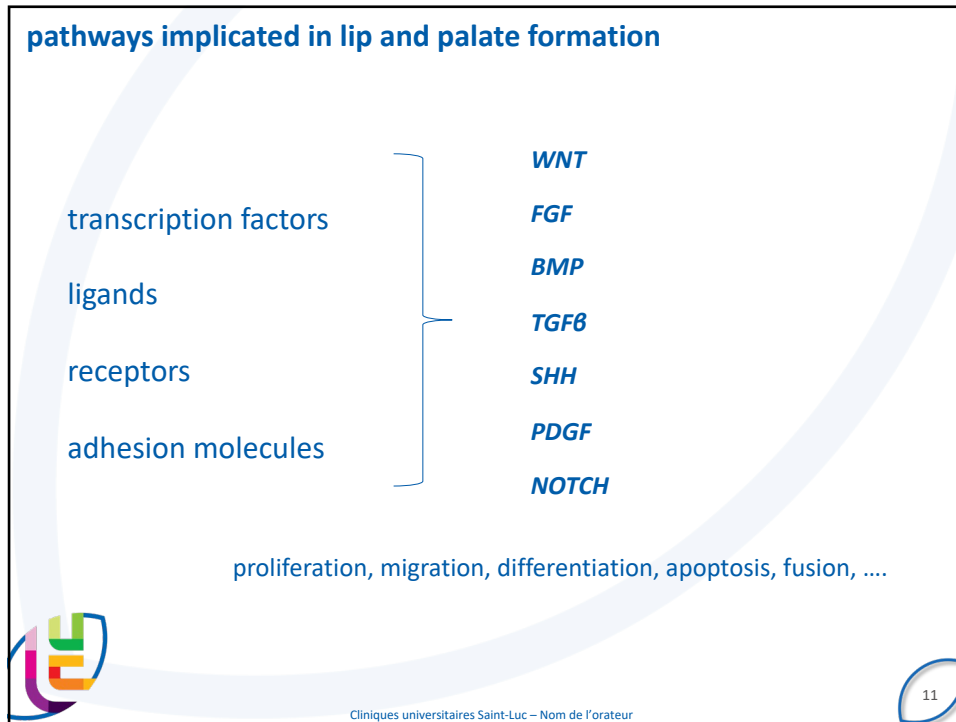
### Anatomy of the palate

Primary palate    Lip  
Alveolar ridge (Gum)  
Hard palate  
Soft palate  
Uvula  
Secondary palate  
Incisor foramen

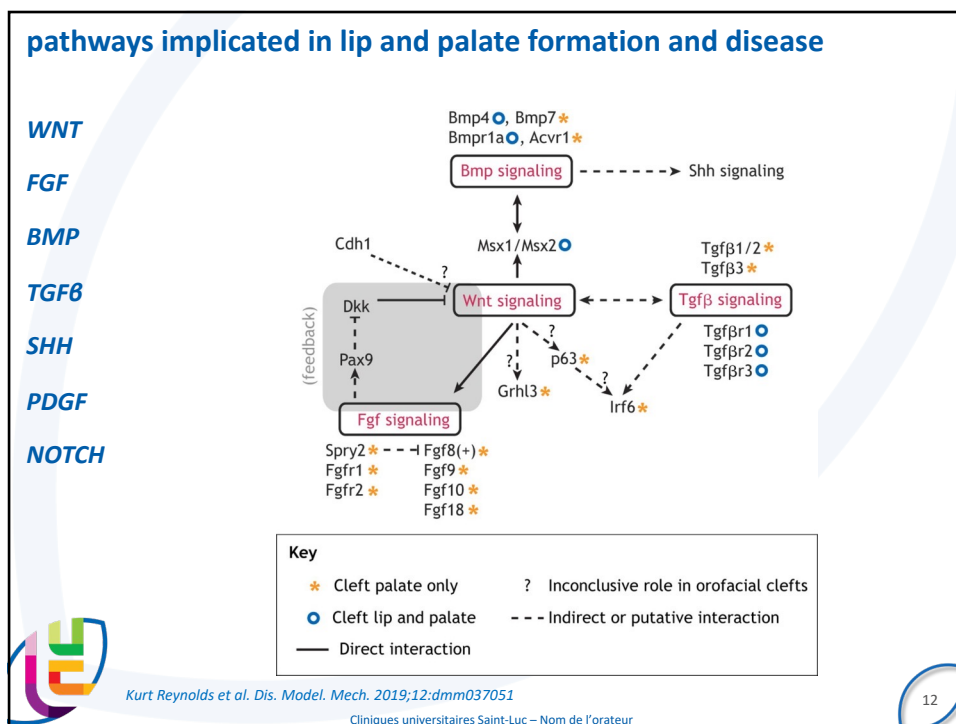
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/surveillancemanual/quick-reference-handbook/cleft-palate.html>

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

10




11



12

# characteristics – classification prevalence

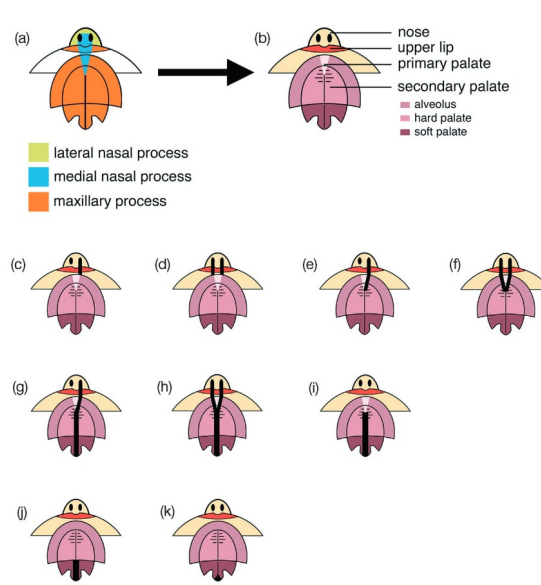


Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

13

13

## cleft types



- lateral nasal process
- medial nasal process
- maxillary process

- nose
- upper lip
- primary palate
- secondary palate
- alveolus
- hard palate
- soft palate


European Journal of Orthodontics, 2004, 26, 7-16.

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

14

14

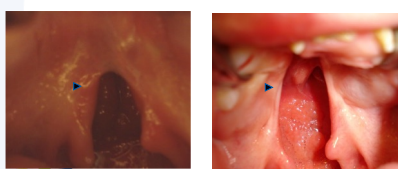
**two major categories**



**group 1: cleft lip and cleft lip and palate (CL/P)**

**group 2: cleft palate only (CPO)**

**epidemiological and embryological studies**



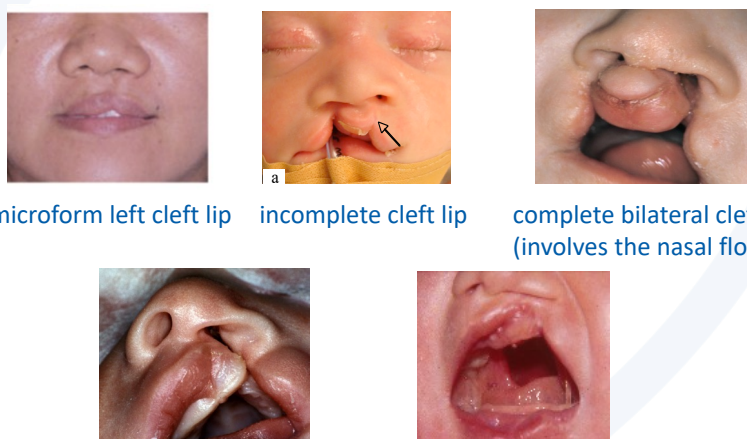
**But some genes (*IRF6, GRHL3, TP63, MSX1, FGFR1, ...*) are involved in both groups**

Photos courtesy of Dr Bénédicte Bayet, Centre Labiopalatin, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels, Belgium

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

15

**clinical spectrum : cleft lip or cleft lip and palate**



**microform left cleft lip**    **incomplete cleft lip**    **complete bilateral cleft lip (involves the nasal floor)**

**cleft lip and alveolus (gum)**    **cleft lip and palate**

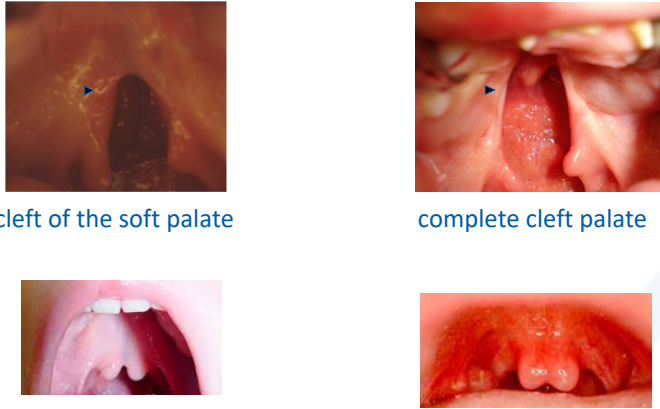
Nat Rev Genet. 2011 Mar; 12(3): 167–178.  
Photos courtesy of Dr Bénédicte Bayet, Centre Labiopalatin, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels, Belgium

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

16



### clinical spectrum : cleft palate




cleft of the soft palate

complete cleft palate

bifid uvula and submucosal cleft

bifid uvula



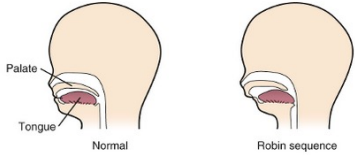
Photos courtesy of Dr Bénédicte Bayet, Centre Labiopalatin, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels, Belgium

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

17

17

### Pierre Robin sequence





Palate

Tongue

Normal

Robin sequence

- microretrognathia
- glossoptosis
- cleft palate
- respiratory obstruction



Photos courtesy of Dr Bénédicte Bayet, Centre Labiopalatin, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels, Belgium

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

18

18

## clinical spectrum

### other rare forms :

median cleft (holoprosencephaly, frontonasal dysplasia, etc.)

lateral cleft (oro-auricular cleft) : incomplete merging of maxillary and mandibular processes (e.g. in craniofacial microsomia)

oblique-lateral cleft (oro-ocular cleft)



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

19

19

## epidemiology

most common craniofacial malformation

prevalence : 1/700 (frequent consultation in medical genetics)

220,000 babies per year worldwide

varies among populations

- 1/500 Asians
- 1/1000 Caucasians
- 1/2500 Africans

cleft lip only : 1/3000 (22%)

cleft lip and palate : 1/1500 (45%)

cleft palate : 1/2000 (33%)



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

20

20


## epidemiology

sex differences

- cleft lip +/- cleft palate : 2M/1F
- cleft palate : 1M/2F

cleft lip location

- unilateral 80%
- 2 left/1 right



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur


21

21

## classification


isolated – cleft is the only feature

- 85% CL
- 70% CLP
- 50% CP




syndromic - additional physical / cognitive abnormalities

- 15% CL
- 30% CLP
- 50% CP



some patients have additional malformations that seem not to be related to a syndrome



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

22

22

### classification

- 80% sporadic
- 20% familial

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

23

### clinical approach

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

24


**clinical approach**

questions :

- is the cleft isolated or syndromic ?
- is the cleft sporadic or familial ?

a precise diagnosis is necessary for :

- clinical follow up
- genetic counselling for the patient/parents and relatives



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

25

25

**clinical approach**

**is the cleft isolated or syndromic ?**

- not always obvious at the time of diagnosis
- additional symptoms : can be mild or can develop later in life
- importance of the follow-up : propose to see the patient again

*Rittler M et al. 2011 : 7 to 9% of the clefts that are initially thought to be isolated cases are found to have associated abnormalities*



*Rittler M et al. Am J Med Genet A. 2011 Jul;155A(7):1588-96.*  
Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

26

26

### clinical approach

when is a cleft diagnosed :

- most of the cleft lip w/o palate are diagnosed prenatally
- cleft palate are usually diagnosed postnatally, in the first days of life  
(prenatally retro/micrognathia can be an indirect sign of CP)
- bifid uvula and submucosal cleft palate might not be diagnosed until later in life

family tree on 3 generations : cleft, other malformations, DD, miscarriages, osteoarthritis, severe myopia, missing teeth, etc...



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

27

27

### clinical approach

pregnancy: maternal illnesses (hyperthermia, epilepsy, diabetes, etc...), tobacco, alcohol, drugs, periconceptual vitamins, ....

personal history : growth, developmental milestones, other major anomalies, hearing, vision, immune deficiency, etc...

clinical examination :

type of cleft, unilateral or bilateral, complete or incomplete

growth : weight, height and OFC, dysproportion

facial asymmetry, dysmorphic features,

ectodermal anomalies : skin, hair, teeth, nails



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

28

28

## clinical approach

clinical examination :

hands/feet : polydactyly, syndactyly, ectrodactyly ...

minor features : preauricular pits, tags, lip pits, short lingual frenulum, ...

cardiac examination

anal anomaly, genital anomalies

....

examine the oral cavity of the parents : lip pits, bifid uvula, submucosal cleft, missing teeth, etc.



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

29

29

## clinical approach

if necessary, propose additional investigations based on your working hypotheses

- cardiac ultrasound
- renal ultrasound
- cerebral ultrasound / MRI
- vision (especially in case of CP/PR)
- ....

discuss :

- the option to perform a genetic testing
- that the result may depend on type of cleft/associated anomalies/family history
- the possibility of unclear results



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

30

30

**management : multidisciplinary team**

- obstetrician
- pediatrician
- plastic surgeon and/or maxillofacial surgeon and/or ear, nose & throat surgeon
- ear, nose & throat specialist
- speech therapist
- pediatric dentist and orthodontist
- geneticist
- psychologist
- social worker
- ....




Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

31

31

**etiology**



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

32

32



## etiology of syndromic cleft

> 300 syndromes ; > 75% known etiology

**chromosomal abnormalities** : trisomy 13, trisomy 18, 22q11.2 deletion/duplication, 1p36 deletion, Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome (4p16.3 deletion), etc...

### monogenic disorders

147 genes on Genomics England PanelApp (AD, AR, X-linked)

**teratogens** (e.g. : methotrexate)



<https://panelapp.genomicsengland.co.uk/panels/81/>

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

33

33

## some diagnoses to consider : chromosomal abnormalities

### Patau syndrome (trisomy 13)

*in utero* death > 95%

intrauterine growth retardation

#### cleft lip and palate

holoprosencephaly (70%)

congenital cardiac anomaly

facial dysmorphism

ocular anomalies

postaxial polydactyly

severe psychomotor retardation

.....



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

34

34

**some diagnoses to consider : chromosomal abnormalities**

**22q11.2 deletion**

prevalence : 1/6,000

**palatal anomalies 75%**

(the most common cause of syndromic palatal anomalies)

velopharyngeal insufficiency

submucosal cleft palate

bifid uvula, cleft palate

(CL/P)

**congenital heart defects (75%) :**

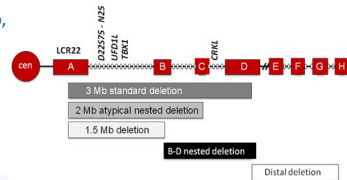
VSD, 4F, aortic arch anomalies, ...

facial dysmorphism (hooded eyelids, ear anomalies, prominent nasal bridge, hypoplastic nasal alae, bulbous nasal tip,

thymic hypoplasia/aplasia (immune deficiency)

developmental delay

neuropsychiatric disorders



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1523/>; Nat Rev Dis Primers. 2015 Nov 19;1:15071.

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

**some diagnoses to consider : monogenic diseases**

**Stickler syndrome**

autosomal dominant : **COL2A1**, **COL11A1/2**

autosomal recessive : **COL9A1/A2/A3**

prevalence 1/7500-9000

**cleft palate or bifid uvula or Pierre Robin**

high myopia

retinal detachment

congenital vitreous anomaly

cataract

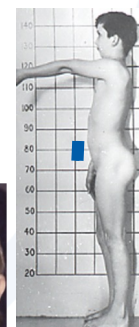
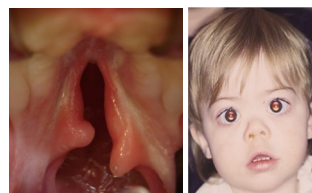
sensorineural or conductive hearing loss

mild spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia

early-onset osteoarthritis

some genotype-phenotype correlation

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1302/>)




Gorlin collection

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur


**some diagnoses to consider : monogenic diseases**

**van der Woude syndrome**, autosomal dominant  
incomplete penetrance, variable expressivity

**type 1** : *IRF6* (70%) (Interferon regulatory factor 6, 1q32), transcription factor  
prevalence: 1/ 35 000 (2% of patients with cleft)  
incomplete penetrance and variable expressivity  
pits on the lower lip (80%)  
cleft lip , cleft lip and palate, cleft palate (50%)  
hypodontia (25%)




**type 2** : *GRHL3* (5%) (Grainyhead-like TF; 1p36)  
transcription factor  
CP>>CLP  
pits on the lower lip (50%)



lip pits

conical elevations




Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

37

37

**some diagnoses to consider : monogenic diseases**

**popliteal pterygium syndrome**  
autosomal dominant  
mutation in *IRF6* : DNA binding domain  
prevalence: 1/ 300 000  
co-occurrence with VWS in the same family




cleft/lip pits

ankyloblepharon

buccal synechiae


skin syndactyly



popliteal webs

genital anomalies

pyramidal skinfold of halluces



Gorlin collection

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

38

38

### some diagnoses to consider : monogenic diseases

- CP
- bifid uvula
- CL/P
- lip pits

**ONLINE MUTATION REPORT**  
 Six families with van der Woude and/or popliteal pterygium syndrome: all with a mutation in the *IRF6* gene  
 M Ghassibé, N Revencu, B Bayet, Y Gillerot, R Vanwijck, C Verellen-Dumoulin, and M Vikkula  
J Med Genet 2004;41:15 (http://www.jmedgenet.com/cgi/content/full/41/2/15). doi: 10.1136/jmg.2003.009274

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

### some diagnoses to consider : monogenic diseases

*IRF6*

- DNA binding domain
- Protein binding domain (SMIR)


Interferon Regulatory Factor 6

Ghassibe et al., *J Med Genet* 2004  
 Desmyter, Ghassibe et al., *Molecular Syndromology* 2010


Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

**some diagnoses to consider : monogenic diseases**


**Branchio-oculo-facial syndrome (BOF)**  
 autosomal dominant  
 mutations in *TFAP2A* (6q24.3), transcription factor  
 prevalence is not known  
 microphthalmia, myopia, cataract  
 conductive hearing loss  
 ID possible and variable




lacrimal duct obstruction  
hypertelorism  
cleft lip w/o CP




"pseudocleft"  
(appearance of a repaired cleft lip)



low-set/posteriorly rotated ears  
branchial skin defect  
(thin skin/hair patch to erythematous lesions)



early loss of hair pigmentation



Gorlin collection

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

41






41

**some diagnoses to consider : monogenic diseases**

**Oculo-dento)- digital dysplasia (ODD)**  
 autosomal dominant  
 rare, but characteristic  
 mutation in *GJA1*, connexin protein  
 characteristic face :

- prominent epicanthic folds
- narrow, pinched nose, hypoplastic nasal alae
- prominent columella
- narrow nasal bridge
- cleft palate

microphthalmia and microcornea  
 teeth are usually small and carious  
 complete syndactyly of the fourth and fifth fingers

Gorlin collection


Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

42

42

### some diagnoses to consider

- TP63*- related disorders – EEC, AEC
- Kabuki syndrome
- Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome
- Treacher-Collins syndrome
- CHARGE syndrome
- Loeys-Dietz syndrome
- Saethre-Chotzen syndrome
- .... and many others



43

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

43

### etiology : isolated cleft

the causes of most of the isolated clefts are unknown


**multifactorial** based on concordance rate in  
 monozygotic twins : 25 to 60%  
 dizygotic twins : 3 to 6%

suggests a genetic basis +  
 involvement of environmental factors

in some patients, **rare variants** in single  
 major genes are present,  
 such as *IRF6*, *GRHL3*, *TP63*,  
*FGF8/FGFR1*, *TBX22*, *PVRL1*, ....

↓

currently a **mixed model** is favoured :  
 multifactorial origin in most  
 monogenic causes in some



44

Grosen, D., et al., *Risk of oral clefts in twins*. *Epidemiology*, 2011. **22**(3): p. 313-9.  
 Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

44

### etiology : isolated cleft

the causes of most of the isolated clefts are unknown


**multifactorial** based on concordance rate in  
 monozygotic twins : 25 to 60%  
 dizygotic twins : 3 to 6%

suggests a genetic basis +  
 involvement of environmental factors

in some patients, **rare variants** in single major genes are present, such as *IRF6*, *GRHL3*, *TP63*, *FGF8/FGFR1*, *TBX22*, *PVRL1*, ....

↓

currently a **mixed model** is favoured :  
 multifactorial origin in most  
 monogenic causes in some



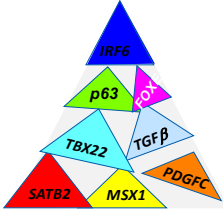
Grosen, D., et al., *Risk of oral clefts in twins*. Epidemiology, 2011. 22(3): p. 313-9.  
 Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

45

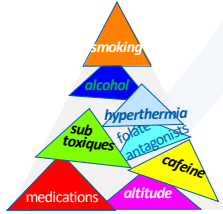
### isolated cleft : multifactorial origin


multifactorial origin  
 combined effects of many independent genes + environmental factors

genetic predisposition



environmental factors





Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

46

## etiology : environmental factors

little is known about the environmental factors

many environmental risk factors have been investigated, but relatively few associations have been clearly established and the contribution to cleft is modest

### maternal smoking

it has **consistently** been associated with increased risk of CLP

the risk seems to be stronger for CL/P (OR: 1.34) than for CP (OR: 1.22), and increases with the number of cigarettes per day in CL/P [126]

4% of all orofacial clefts and 12% of bilateral CL/P could be attributed to periconceptual maternal smoking

genetic susceptibility in the context of maternal smoke exposure :

polymorphisms in *TGFA*, *TGFB3*, *BMP4*, *MSX1*,... genes have been associated with increased risk of cleft



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

47

47

## etiology : environmental factors

little is known about the environmental factors

many environmental risk factors have been investigated, but relatively few associations have been clearly established and the contribution to cleft is modest

### alcohol

it has **inconsistently** been associated to isolated CLP

the risk could be higher only if high dose of alcohol + if the mother or the fetus carries the *ADH1C* haplotype associated with reduced alcohol metabolism

### caffeine

it has **inconsistently** been associated to isolated CLP



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

48

48



## etiology : environmental factors

### **multivitamin supplements**

multivitamin supplements in periconceptional has been linked to **decreased risk**  
however, composition of multivitamin complexes are rarely reported, and responsibility (ies) of each component for this reduction is difficult to determine

### **folate supplement**

preventive effect of folic acid on clefts is commonly reported but the evidence is inconsistent  
a recent large study on the effects and safety of periconceptional oral folate supplementation for preventing birth defects does not support any protective or negative effect of folic acid supplementation on orofacial cleft



## etiology : environmental factors

### **maternal illnesses**

diabetes mellitus before pregnancy  
obesity (body mass index  $\geq 30$ )  
infections  
hyperthermia

### **medication**

antiepileptic drugs : valproic acid, topiramate  
steroid treatment



## etiology : genetic predisposition

different approaches have been used to identify genetic risk factors :

linkage, GWAS, sequencing of candidate genes, WES

many loci identified

**linkage studies** : success is limited by the genetic complexity of isolated cleft

meta-analysis combining six studies identified 6 loci : 1q32, 2p13, 3q27–28, 9q21, 14q21–24, and 16q24 (*IRF6*, *FOXE1*, ...)

**GWAS** : > 40 genes and loci associated with isolated CL/P



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

51

51

## etiology : isolated cleft

the causes of most of the isolated clefts are unknown

**multifactorial** based on concordance rate in  
monozygotic twins : 25 to 60%  
dizygotic twins : 3 to 6%

suggests a genetic basis +  
involvement of environmental factors

in some patients, **rare variants** in single  
major genes are present,  
such as *IRF6*, *GRHL3*, *TP63*,  
*FGF8/FGFR1*, *TBX22*, *PVRL1*, ....



currently a mixed model is favoured :  
multifactorial origin in most  
monogenic causes in some



Grosen, D., et al., *Risk of oral clefts in twins*. *Epidemiology*, 2011. **22**(3): p. 313-9.

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

52

52

**etiology : isolated cleft - some have monogenic origin**

WES : genes involved in **syndromes** can also be involved in **isolated cleft lip/palate**

the line between syndromic and non-syndromic clefts is blurred

Whole exome sequencing identifies mutations in 10% of patients with familial non-syndromic cleft lip and/or palate in genes mutated in well-known syndromes

Mirta Basha,<sup>1</sup> Bénédicte Demeer,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Nicole Revencu,<sup>1,4</sup> Raphael Helaers,<sup>1</sup> Stephanie Theys,<sup>3</sup> Sami Bou Saba,<sup>6</sup> Odjile Boute,<sup>7</sup> Bernard Devauchelle,<sup>8</sup> Geneviève Francois,<sup>7</sup> Bénédicte Bayet,<sup>10</sup> Miikka Viikkula<sup>1</sup>

J Med Genet. 2018 Jul;55(7):449-458

- 106 individuals from 63 families
- mutations identified in 7 families
  - *TBX1*
  - *TBX22* (2 families)
  - *LRP6*
  - *GRHL3* (2 families)
  - *TP63* (*IRF6* was tested before)

Received: 2 May 2018 | Revised: 15 August 2018 | Accepted: 17 August 2018  
DOI: 10.1002/jmg.40620

RESEARCH ARTICLE

WILEY *medical genetics*

**Unmasking familial CPX by WES and identification of novel clinical signs**

Bénédicte Demeer<sup>1,2,3</sup> | Nicole Revencu<sup>1,4</sup> | Raphael Helaers<sup>1</sup> | Bernard Devauchelle<sup>3,5</sup> | Geneviève Francois<sup>6</sup> | Bénédicte Bayet<sup>7</sup> | Miikka Viikkula<sup>1</sup>

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

53

**etiology : isolated cleft - some have monogenic origin**

Genetics in Medicine (2023) 25, 100918

**Genetics Medicine**  
An Official Journal of the ACMG  
www.journals.ebspub.com/genetics-in-medicine

ARTICLE

**Rare variants found in clinical gene panels illuminate the genetic and allelic architecture of orofacial clefting**

Kimberly K. Diaz Perez<sup>1</sup>, Sarah W. Curtis<sup>1</sup>, Alba Sanchis-Juan<sup>2</sup>, Xuefang Zhao<sup>3</sup>, Taylor Head<sup>4</sup>, Samantha Ho<sup>1</sup>, Bridget Carter<sup>1,4</sup>, Toby McHenry<sup>5</sup>, Madison R. Bishop<sup>1</sup>, Luz C. Valencia-Ramirez<sup>6</sup>, Claudia Restrepo<sup>6</sup>, Jacqueline T. Hecht<sup>1</sup>, Lina M. Uribe<sup>6</sup>, George Wehby<sup>7</sup>, Seth M. Weinberg<sup>8</sup>, Terri H. Beaty<sup>10</sup>, Jeffrey C. Murray<sup>11</sup>, Eleanor Feingold<sup>12</sup>, Mary L. Marazita<sup>5,12</sup>, David J. Cutler<sup>1</sup>, Michael P. Epstein<sup>1</sup>, Harrison Brand<sup>9</sup>, Elizabeth J. Leslie<sup>1,\*</sup>

Cohort

841 index cases

- 621 “simplex”
- 220 “multiplex” (at least 1 other affected relative, up to the 3rd degree)

most trios (child and parents)

- CLP: 660
- CP : 74
- CL: 107

no other major malformations  
no intellectual deficiency

Control sample : 294 child-parent trios

**GS : 418 genes analysed**

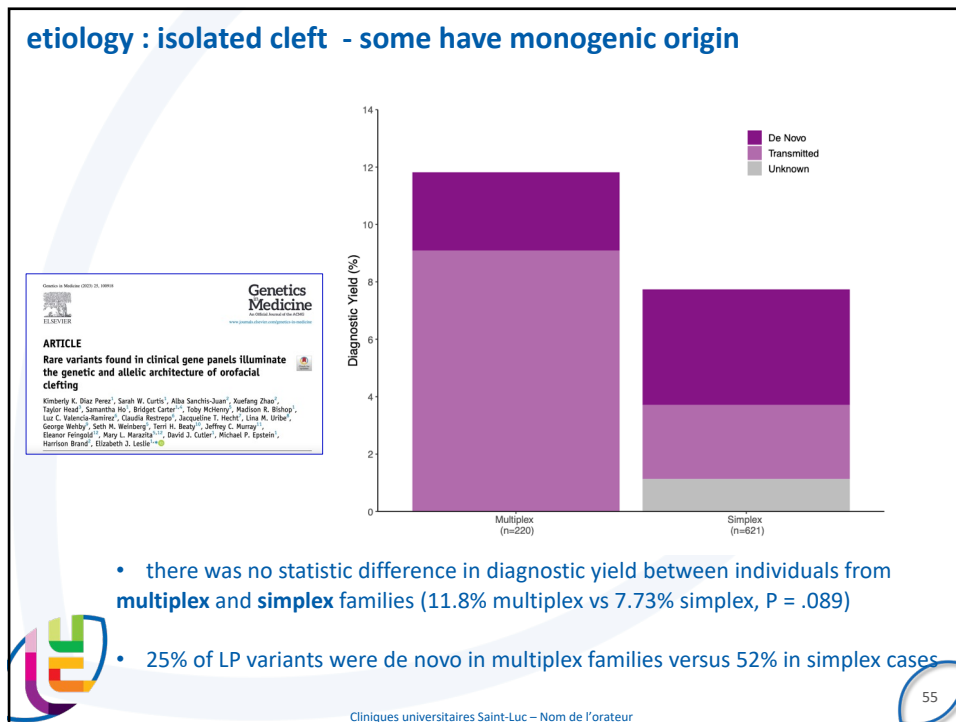
76 likely pathogenic variants identified in 39 genes  
**9.04% of cases and 1.02% of controls**

likely pathogenic variants identified in :

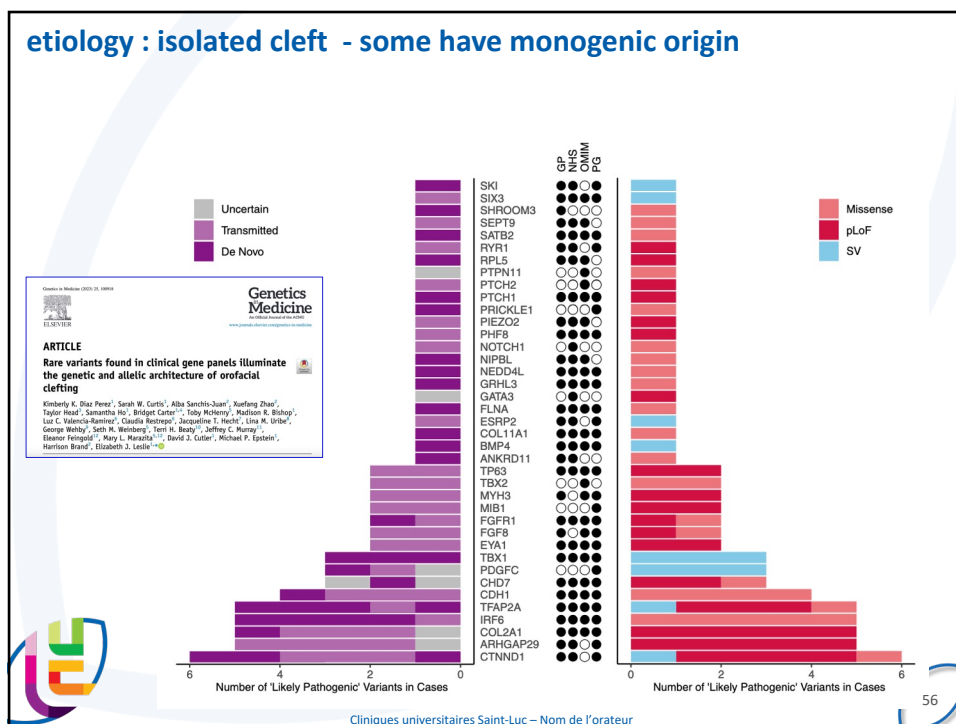
- CLP : 9.09% (60/660)
- CP : 17.6% (13/74)
- CL: 2.8% (3/107) (not significantly different than controls)

Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

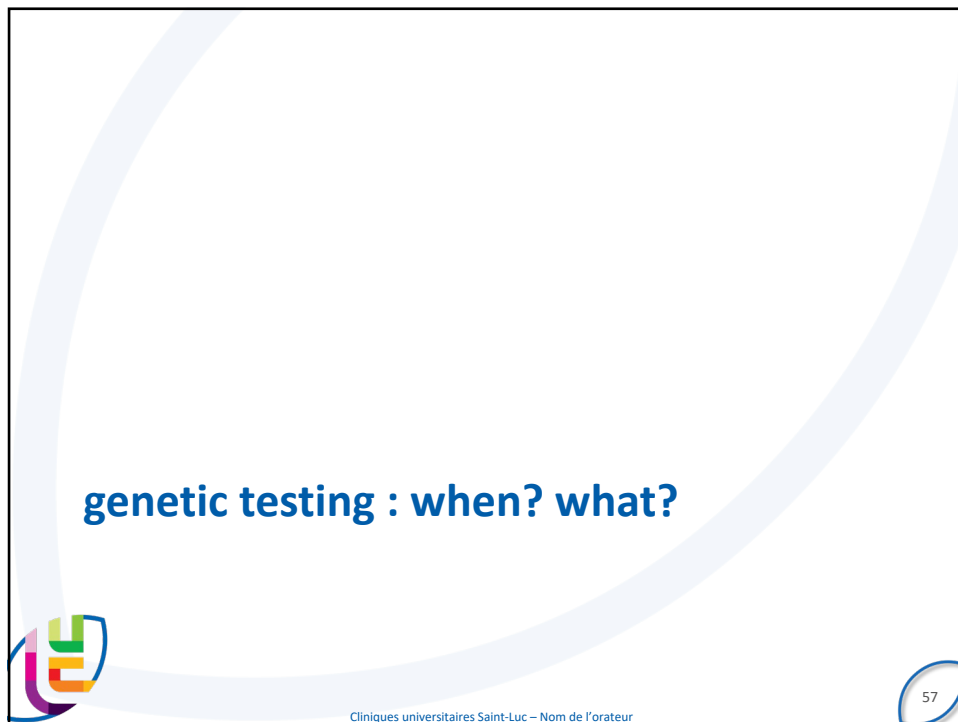
54




55



56



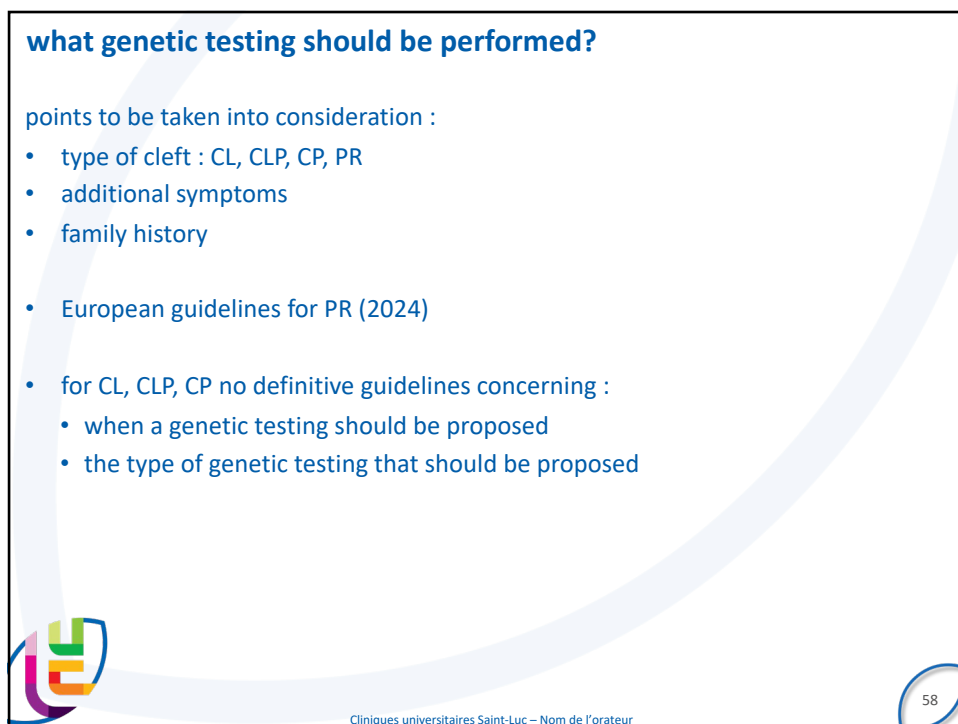
genetic testing : when? what?



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

57


57



**what genetic testing should be performed?**

points to be taken into consideration :

- type of cleft : CL, CLP, CP, PR
- additional symptoms
- family history
- European guidelines for PR (2024)
- for CL, CLP, CP no definitive guidelines concerning :
  - when a genetic testing should be proposed
  - the type of genetic testing that should be proposed



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

58

58

## before performing any genetic testing


discuss with the parents the option of genetic testing

if a test is performed, explain the type of test and the possible results, the TAT

special attention should be paid to :

- the possible risk of identifying a syndrome that could have consequences later in life (developmental delay, additional symptoms)
- the possible risk of unclear results
- the possible risk of incidental findings

obtain the informed consent



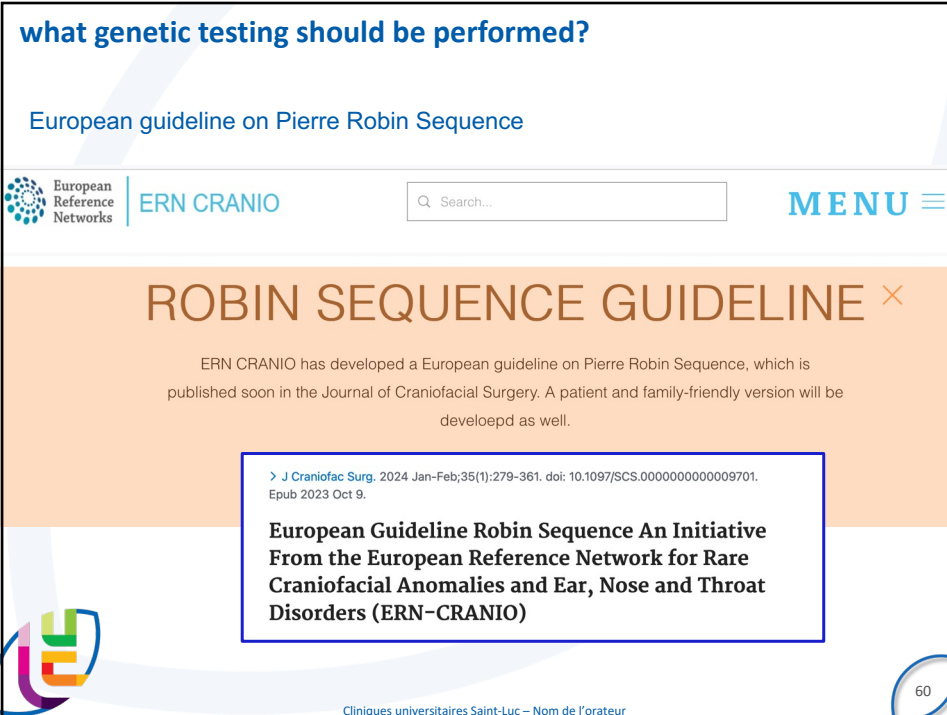
Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

59

59

## what genetic testing should be performed?

European guideline on Pierre Robin Sequence




European Reference Networks | ERN CRANIO |  | MENU ☰

### ROBIN SEQUENCE GUIDELINE ✕

ERN CRANIO has developed a European guideline on Pierre Robin Sequence, which is published soon in the Journal of Craniofacial Surgery. A patient and family-friendly version will be developed as well.

> [J Craniofac Surg. 2024 Jan-Feb;35\(1\):279-361. doi: 10.1097/SCS.00000000000009701. Epub 2023 Oct 9.](#)

**European Guideline Robin Sequence An Initiative From the European Reference Network for Rare Craniofacial Anomalies and Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders (ERN-CRANIO)**




Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

60

60

## ERN cranio - recommendations for patients with Pierre-Robin

- offer genetic counselling antenatally to all parents when ultrasound shows signs of retrognathia.
- refer all neonates/ infants with PR as soon as possible to a clinical geneticist within a center of expertise. If early referral is not feasible referral at the age of 6 months is recommended.
- refer all children with PR after 2 to 3 years to a clinical geneticist for clinical and genetic re-evaluation, if initial screening yielded no underlying diagnosis
- perform genetic testing minimally comprising **CNV-analysis and (trio)-WES based gene panel** analysis targeting PR-associated genes. If this not feasible perform **at least CNV-analysis and a limited targeted gene panel for Stickler syndrome**




Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

61

61

## ERN cranio - recommendations for patients with CL/P and CP

**No definitive guidelines**  
ERN CRANIO endorses the Dutch guideline




ERN CRANIO

MENU ≡

### CLEFT LIP/PALATE GUIDELINE ✕

ERN CRANIO endorses the Dutch guideline for 'schisis' (published in 2017). [The term "schisis" in Dutch encompasses all types of facial clefts, most commonly clefts of the lip and/or palate].

Professional guideline



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

62

62

## ERN cranio - recommendations for patients with CL/P and CP

### Isolated CL:

- Consider CLA/P **gene panel** analysis (incl. CNV analysis) in trio

### Isolated CLP and CP:

- CLA/P **gene panel** analysis (incl. CNV analysis) in trio
- Consider supplementing with **SNP array** and/or other gene panels

### Isolated cleft + family history

- CLA/P **gene panel** analysis (incl. CNV Analysis) in trio
- Consider expanding with **SNP array** /other gene panels, possibly followed by open **exome**

### Cleft with associated aberrations and/or suspected chromosomal aberration

- **SNP array**
- CLA/P **gene panel** analysis in trio, if necessary, in addition to other gene panels, with subsequent **open exome** analysis, if strong suspicion/VOUS supplemented with RNA analysis/whole genome sequencing/testing other tissue etc



## when a genetic test is prescribed

provide **detailed phenotype** and working diagnosis (if any) :

- type of cleft (CL, CLP, CP, PR)
- unilateral/bilateral
- isolated or syndromic
- sporadic or familial





### what genetic testing can be considered

Dutch (ERN) approach versus Belgian centres

	iCL		iCLP		iCP		discontinuous		Fam		Syndr.	
	CMA	P/ES	CMA	P/ES	CMA	P/ES	CMA	P/ES	CMA	P/ES	CMA	P/ES
Ghent	X		X		X	P	X	P	X	P	X	P
Antwerp			X		X	Stickler				P		P
UCL*	(X)		X		X	P/ES *	X	P/+ES*	X	P/+ES*	X	P/ES
IPG	X		X		X						X	ES
Liège			X	+/- other	X	+/- other			X	+/- other	X	+/- other
VUB			X		X	IRF6+ US/O			X	IRF6+ US/O	X	+/- other
Leuven											X	P/ES
ERN		+/-P	+/-X	P	+/-X	P			X	P/ES	X	P/ES

\* research project offered to patients with cleft (trio)



### ERN cranio - recommendations for patients with CL/P and CP

“unfortunately, the current literature does not provide information about the exact yield of different diagnostic genetic tests in an unbiased well subphenotyped cleft population.

more specific, the type of clefting in different studies are not uniformly subclassified

furthermore, the genetic techniques differ between the various available studies.”



## ERN cranio - recommendations for patients with CL/P and CP

« further studies, including **broad genotype-phenotype evaluation** in well **subphenotyped population** and treatment outcome studies, are necessary to define those children in which **genetic testing will have most benefit** and **determine the optimal strategy of genetic testing in cleft cases !** »



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

67

67

**recurrence risk**



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

68

68

### recurrence risk for isolated cleft lip w/o cleft palate

Relationship to index case	Recurrence risk (%)
sibling unilateral CL	2-3%
sibling unilateral CL/P	4%
sibling bilateral CL/P	5-6%
two affected siblings	10%
affected sibling and parent	10%*
affected parent	4%

\*could represent dominant risk

some of the patients with isolated cleft have mutation in a single gene



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

69

69

### recurrence risk for isolated cleft palate

Relationship to index case	Recurrence risk (%)
sibling	2-3%
parent	4%

keep in mind that some of the patients with isolated cleft have mutation in a single gene



Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc – Nom de l'orateur

70

70

### recurrence risk for syndromic cleft

precise estimation possible if the diagnosis is known

majority – autosomal dominant inheritance

- incomplete penetrance

- variable expressivity

- « de novo » mutation, germline mosaicism

some – X-linked (*TBX22*, *MID1*, etc.) or autosomal recessive (*NECTIN1*, *EPG5*, etc.)



Thank you for your attention !

