

DID YOU KNOW:

Facts about HEMIFACIAL MICROSOMIA



What is Hemifacial Microsomia?

Hemifacial microsomia (HFM) is a condition that affects bone, muscle, fat and nerves of the face. The deformities in HFM are on a spectrum from a mild

presentation with slight asymmetry to severe with absence of facial structures. This condition is progressive and becomes more apparent as the individual grows.

How often does Hemifacial Microsomia occur?

HFM is the second most common facial deformity. It occurs in approximately 1 in every 5600 births.

The cause is unknown and there is no sex predilection.

Facial Growth

Asymmetric growth is an early manifestation in HFM. This presentation is accentuated by the deficiencies in mandibular (lower jaw) growth, lack of soft tissue bulk and weakness of the muscles in the face. The unaffected

side grows normally in all dimensions while the affected side does not. The chin deviates toward the affected side. The short jaw restricts normal downward growth of the maxilla (upper jaw) and produces a cant of the bite.

Classification in Hemifacial Microsomia

HFM's most common classification system is the O.M.E.N.S. classification first described by Vento and colleagues. OMENS stands for orbit (eye), mandible (lower jaw), ear, nerve and soft tissue (skin, fat and

muscle). These structures are each rated from a normal state designated 0 to severe 3. Accurate classification of HFM is imperative to formulate a comprehensive treatment plan.

Treatment in Hemifacial Microsomia

Patient age and skeletal type determines the treatment course. Early treatment, patients in deciduous dentition (baby teeth), is confined to the severe deformities. Mixed dentition treatment approximately age 6-12 is multidisciplinary involving mandibular correction to allow for normal maxillary growth followed

by orthodontic treatment (braces) to align the teeth. End stage correction (after growth is complete) usually older than 16, involves surgery on both the mandible and maxilla. Ear reconstruction or revision can be carried out throughout the treatment algorithm depending on treatment plan.

SPOTLIGHT:

LBFF Medical Advisory Board Member
Richard L. Elias, D.M.D., M.D.

Dr. Richard Elias has been a dedicated member of the Little Baby Face Foundation Medical Advisory Board since its inception. As a specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, he provides necessary treatment to LBFF patients with HFM. He earned his medical and dental degrees from Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine and completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Elias is affiliated with Lenox Hill Hospital, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York Presbyterian and Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York City. Additionally he holds academic positions at Mount Sinai Hospital/Medical School and New York Presbyterian Hospital.



Dr. Elias pictured during the 2009 Gala with LBFF patients, Lorena Ochoa from Ecuador and Nikoletta Mallias from Greece.