



Our Method of Cleft Lip Repair

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In unilateral cleft lip repair, we use Millard's modified method. So called "Millard's modified method", however, includes a variety of procedures. Our method is similar to the straight line method. The suture line along the philtrum is rather straight as it looks like that of non-cleft side. A small triangular flap is placed at both the upper ridges of the vermilion and the nostril sill. The triangular flap placed just above the vermilion border is as small as 1.5mm in size. Similarly, the triangular flap at the nostril sill is quite smaller than that used in original Millard's method. The orbicularis oris muscle is reconstructed meticulously.

The alar cartilage is not usually treated. However, when the nostril is deformed, "reverse-U incision" is used and the alar cartilage of the cleft side is rotated medially and fixed to the alar cartilage and upper lateral cartilage with buried sutures.

Using this method, the scar is quite invisible and the symmetrical nostril can be gained. This method is so-called mixture of Millard's method, Tennison-Randall triangular method and the straight-line method. Our technique is presented and several representable cases are shown.