MY BABIES
CLEFT

By Justin Zelones
Your baby has a cleft lip and palate that will require surgery...

I will refer you to a multidisciplinary team.

The worst moment of my life.

Grief

Anxiety

Shock

Confusion

Guilt

Can this be fixed?

DID I CAUSE THIS?

Will he be teased by others?

What will others think?
Most common craniofacial anomaly. Multidisciplinary team. 46% c CLP, 33% c CP alone, 21% c CL alone. Unilateral to bilateral is 9:1. L to R is 2:1. 1/1000 live births. Risk factors: Anticonvulsants, smoking, etoh, 22q deletions, retinoic acid. Previous child or parent c CLP → risk 4%. 2 previous children → risk 9%. Complex lengthy member of team. Geneticist, psychiatrist, orthodontist, social worker.

Surgery
DID I CAUSE THIS?
WHEN IS SURGERY?
WILL THIS BE PERMANENT?
WHAT WILL OTHERS THINK/THOUGHT?
WILL HE BE ABLE TO SPEAK?

3 MONTHS: CLEFT LIP REPAIR

12 MONTHS: CLEFT PALATE REPAIR

7-9 YEARS: ALVEOLAR BONE GRAFT

MY SON AT 12 YEARS OF AGE

HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS FATHER.