

efforts of a multidisciplinary health care team, including pediatrics, plastic surgery, orthodontics, otolaryngology, speech/language pathology, audiology, nursing, and social work. Management is directed toward closure of the cleft(s), prevention of complications, and facilitation of normal growth and development in the child.

### **Surgical Correction of Cleft Lip**

CL repair typically occurs at most centers between 2 and 3 months old. The two most common procedures for repair of CL are the Fisher repair and the Millard rotational advancement technique. Surgeons often use a combination of techniques to address individual differences. Improved surgical techniques and postoperative wound care have minimized scar retraction, and in the absence of infection or trauma, most heal very well (see [Fig. 22-4](#)). Nasoalveolar molding may also be used to bring the cleft segments closer together before definitive CL repair, reducing the need for CL revision. Optimal cosmetic results, however, may be difficult to obtain in severe defects. Additional revisions may be necessary at a later age.

### **Surgical Correction of Cleft Palate**

CP repair typically occurs before 12 months of age to enhance normal speech development ([Tinanoff, 2016](#)). The most common techniques to repair CP include the Veau-Wardill-Kilner V-Y pushback procedure and the Furlow double-opposing Z-plasty. Approximately 20% to 30% of children with repaired CP will need a secondary surgery to improve velopharyngeal closure for speech. Secondary procedures may include palatal lengthening, pharyngeal flap, sphincter pharyngoplasty, or posterior pharyngeal wall augmentation. If the child is not a candidate for surgical revision to improve velopharyngeal function, prosthetic management should be considered.

### **Prognosis**

Children with CL may require multiple surgeries to achieve optimal aesthetic outcomes but are not at risk for increased speech problems. Although some children with CP and CL/P do not require speech therapy, many have some degree of speech impairment that requires speech therapy at some point throughout