**What is Pfeiffers Syndrome**

Pfeiffers syndrome is a genetic disorder characterized by skeletal abnormalities. A key feature of Pfeiffers syndrome is the premature closure of 2 or more sutures (a fibrous band that allows skull growth) of the skull. This is called complex craniosynostosis. This early closure of the sutures prevents the skull from growing normally and affects the shape of the head and face. Pfeiffers syndrome has no cure, but surgery can help correct some of the problems that result.

Incidence

Pfeiffers syndrome affects males and femalesPfeiffer syndrome affects about 1 in 100,000 people in the general population.

How is Pfeiffers Diagnosed

Diagnosis of Pfeiffers syndrome usually can occur at birth by assessing the physical appearance of the infant. Further analysis, including radiographs, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, genetic testing, X-rays and CT scans can be used to confirm the diagnosis of Pfeiffers syndrome.

Treatment

Because a baby with Pfeiffers syndrome can have complex issues a multidisciplinary team admission to CHI @ Temple Street maybe planned. On this admission the baby will be reviewed by the Craniofacial Team, Eye team, Medical team, ENT ( Ear, Nose and Thoat) team, Geneticist, Dietician, Speech and Language, medical social worker, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Dentist. Bloods, x-rays, scan and photography will also be completed will be completed on this admission.

Surgery is typically used to prevent the closure of sutures of the skull from damaging the brain's development, to protect the eyes or to improve the child’s airway. Due to the complex craniosystosis that children with Pfeiffers syndrome will have, an individual plan for surgery. This will be discussed between the craniofacial consultant and the parents.