

Airway Reconstruction



3,936

Airway reconstructions performed by our team to date*, treating patients from the United States, Canada, the Middle East, Europe, South America, Australia, South Africa and Asia

135

Reconstruction surgeries performed on average per year**

For children with the most complex airway conditions, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is the premier care facility, having performed more airway procedures than any other pediatric medical facility in the world. Our experienced team of specialists utilizes a full complement of innovative surgical treatments, and continually seeks treatments that minimize long-term effects for patients.

HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

Cincinnati Children's offers the foremost physician team for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric airway abnormalities. The Airway team is internationally recognized for pioneering many of the laryngeal and tracheal reconstruction procedures and intra-operative devices that save children from a lifetime dependence on a tracheal tube.

Cincinnati Children's is one of only a few pediatric centers in the United States that treats dysphonia in children who have had airway surgery. This experience and expertise enables surgeons to recognize opportunities for improving voice quality after an airway procedure without compromising the health of the airway.

CONDITIONS TREATED

Airway reconstructions are performed on children with breathing difficulties resulting from congenital defects, external injury or medical procedures, and who are experiencing:

- Glottic/Subglottic Stenosis
- Tracheal Stenosis
- Laryngeal Cleft
- Vocal Cord Paralysis
- Tracheomalacia
- Laryngomalacia
- Tracheal Rings

TREATMENT TEAM

Michael J. Rutter, MD
Director, Aerodigestive Center

Alessandro de Alarcón, MD, MPH
Director, Center for Pediatric Voice Disorders

Catherine K. Hart, MD
Director, Outcomes Research

Charles Myer IV, MD
Airway Reconstruction Surgeon

Matthew M. Smith, MD
Airway Reconstruction Surgeon

Robin T. Cotton, MD
Emeritus

*January 1974 through June 2022
**10-year average



CONTACT US

For patient referrals and non-urgent consultation during business hours, contact the program directly at:

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International:
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www.cincinnatichildrens.org/airway

TREATMENT APPROACH

Cincinnati Children's holistic approach to assessment and diagnosis allows all exams and tests to be performed within a few days. Otolaryngologists, pulmonologists, gastroenterologists and other specialists are brought together in a single location, so each patient benefits from an entire community of doctors striving for a positive outcome.

Gastrointestinal and pulmonology evaluations help determine whether a child is ready for reconstructive airway surgery, since the health of those systems plays a vital role in the patient's healing process.

The caring, committed team provides a comprehensive plan of care that includes exceptional peri-operative and post-operative care, from anesthesia and the Intensive Care Unit, to swallowing and voice rehabilitation.

Depending on the patient's needs, a broad range of endoscopic and airway procedures are employed to reconstruct or expand segments of the airway, including:

- Laryngotracheal Reconstruction (LTR) with cartilage grafting, also known as Laryngotracheoplasty (LTP)
- Cricotracheal Resection (CTR)
- Tracheal Resection
- Slide Tracheoplasty

For international inquiries, call +1-513-636-3100 or email international@cchmc.org.