

# The management of Otitis Media with Effusion in children with cleft palate (mOMEnt): a feasibility study and economic evaluation

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**Disclaimer:** this report contains transcripts of interviews conducted in the course of the research and contains language that may offend some readers.

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## Plain English summary

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## Plain English summary

Clinicians are unsure regarding the best way to treat children with cleft palate (CP) and 'glue ear'. They can give these children hearing aids or carry out an operation to put a small plastic tube (grommet) in their eardrum, which helps them to hear. The aim of our study was to find out the best method of studying how well these treatments work.

The study had several stages. In the first stage we surveyed the clinicians working in cleft lip and palate centres to find out their methods of treatment. This was followed by interviews with patients and their parents to find if they were willing to take part in a study and to discover the results that are most important to them. We also carried out a computer-based survey and had meetings with clinicians and parents of children with CP to find out the results of the treatment that are important to them. Finally, we carried out an analysis to find out how much should be spent on research into the treatment of glue ear.

We found out that further research is necessary. This should be a clinical trial carried out in the cleft lip and palate centres in the UK, measuring the results of treatment important to clinicians and patients. We had some concerns about potential recruitment rate and these can be addressed by designing a trial incorporating an initial study to evaluate recruitment. We could then decide whether or not to move to a full trial 6 months after initial recruitment has started.

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