

## Considerations in Patient Selection

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I have no financial conflicts to disclose.

A 4 year old male presents for a left inguinal hernia repair.

- What do you want to know about him?

A 4 year old male presents for a left inguinal hernia repair.

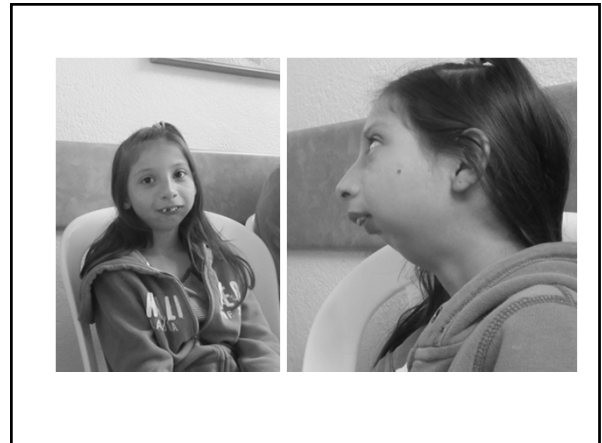
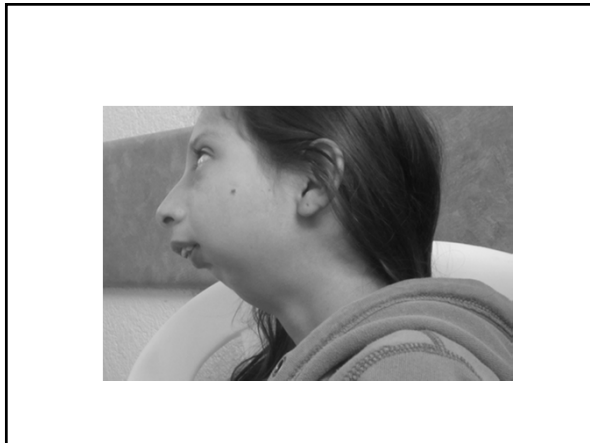
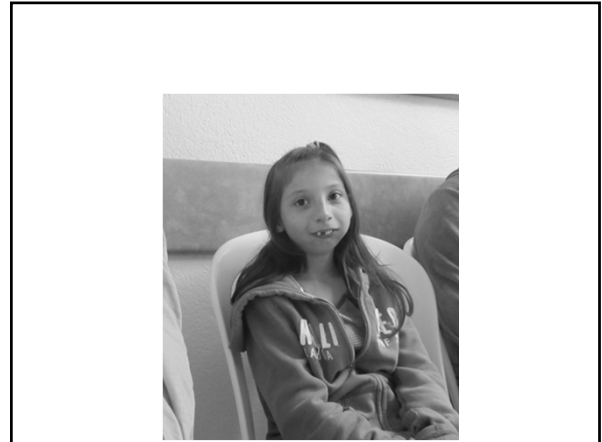
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- Is he small due to malnutrition? Or because of a cardiac issue?



### Preoperative Pearls

- A good history and physical exam are of paramount importance. A pediatrician may or may not be on your team.
- Patients may have no prior exposure to medical personnel. Undiagnosed diseases may exist.
- Malnutrition may be a consideration in post-surgical healing. A team discussion may be in order, prior to proceeding.

### Preoperative Pearls

- Be aware of endemic diseases.
  - Malaria, Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Tuberculosis, HIV, Hepatitis C,...

### Preoperative Pearls

- Consider related syndromes (midline defects, etc).
- Labs, imaging, and donor blood may or may not be available.
- Consider the patient's post operative disposition. Would overnight hospitalization be available? Postoperative ICU care may or may not be available.

### Preoperative Pearls

- Know what equipment you have available (airway equipment, code cart, etc) and whether it is in working order.
- Know if you have experienced hands available.
- Make back up plans, in cases Plan A doesn't go smoothly.

### Preoperative Pearls

- There is often pressure to proceed with cases.
  - Patients have no or limited access. This is their best or only chance of having surgery.
  - Host institutes/personnel want patients served.
  - Or course, your surgeon wants to proceed.
- How much risk are you willing to take?

### References

- To follow