

Study of dental cast and cephalometric in unoperated adult UCLP patients

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Abstrak

Background: Early operated patients with orofacial cleft often develop a retrusive maxilla. It is not clear whether this growth disturbance is attributed to the congenital malformation itself or to the cleft surgery or both. **Objective:** To evaluate transversal and antero-posterior maxillary development in unoperated adult patients with unilateral cleft lip and palate (UCLP). **Methods:** 68 dental casts of unoperated adult UCLP patients were compared to 24 adult controls. The casts were analysed three dimensionally using an industrial coordinate measuring machine (=CMM) (Zeiss Numerex; Carl Zeiss Stuttgart, Germany). 12 cephalograms of unoperated UCLP patients and 24 controls were available and measured for the following variables: Maxillary length, SNA, SNB, Gonial angle and SN-FH angle. The data obtained was analysed by paired t-test, level of significance was set at $p < 0,05$. **Results:** measured on dental casts, the transversal distance at the level of the second molars was significantly wider and at the level of first premolar and canine significantly smaller compared to the control group. Cephalometrically there were no significant differences for the 5 cephalometric measurements. **Conclusions:** the presence of a cleft influences the development of the maxilla: The more extensive the cleft, the more extensive the effect of the dental arch, but the compression of the maxillary arch is limited to the anterior region. Measured cephalometrically the cleft has no influence on the antero-posterior development of the maxilla. However, the sample size for the cephalometric study was small.