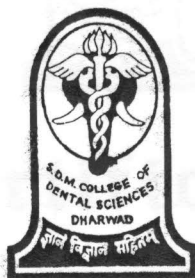


**“A CRITICAL EVALUATION INTO THE FORM AND
FUNCTION IN SURGICALLY TREATED CLEFT LIP AND
PALATE PATIENTS - A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF
DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES”**



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Children born with clefts of the lip and palate constitute only a minority of those suffering from a congenital deformity of one sort or the other. This condition engages the continuing interest of workers of various disciplines, not only in the quest for improved techniques but also in relation to the etiology and epidemiology. Present day society sets considerable standards by physical appearance and it is undoubtedly a potential factor in the initial formation of human relationships. One's self image and socialization are greatly influenced by the degree of physical normalcy.

"Normalcy" is recreated by establishing the facial contour and landmarks. The surgeon's primary objective is always to restore natural and attractive contours, highlight landmarks and in-effect recreate the relationship of form that define regional units and establish the normalcy of face. In the modern age there is an alarming increase in the births of children with clefts and other congenital malformations. One of the trends in the management of cleft lip and palate is correction of the entire anatomical deficit at a very young age, even before the functional patterns have developed. This is in contrast to the older concepts where the correction was done at different stages.

This study is aimed at comparing the effectiveness, of surgical management of cleft lip and palate using two different approaches i.e., the 'all in one' single stage closure and the multi stage closure.