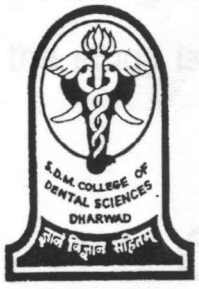
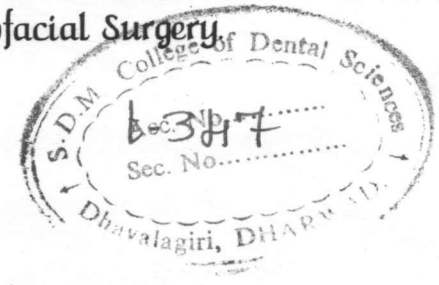
"STAINLESS STEEL MINI PLATES IN THE TREATMENT OF MANDIBULAR FRACTURES - A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY"



Dissertation Submitted to the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Dental Surgery, in the Specialty of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.



March 2000 **Dr. S. Shibu**

Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
S.D.M. College of Dental Sciences & Hospital,
Dharwad.

Since the first known case in the 16th century B.C. to present day, mandibular fractures have commanded special respect and attention of the surgeon, as it disrupts normal life of the patient in relation to eating, drinking, talking and in social interaction. With the ever-increasing incidence of assaults, road traffic accidents there has been an increase in cases of mandibular fractures. Endeavor of the surgeon has been to re-establish the anatomical continuity of the mandible to establish normal occlusion in case of dentulous patient to return to normal or near normal life as early as possible. Various modalities of treatment have been tried but with the introduction of intermaxillary fixation definite frontiers were opened for treatment of maxillofacial fractures.

Road traffic accidents and resultant mandibular fractures are very commonly seen in any routine Oral & Maxillo Facial Surgical practice. Till early 80's the mainstay of treatment of mandibular fractures was closed reduction with Intermaxillary fixation or open reduction transosseous wiring and intermaxillary fixation. Intermaxillary fixation for a period of 6-8 weeks is very cumbersome and is associated with problems like inability to open the mouth, diet, poor oral hygiene leading to dental and periodontal problems, weight loss. Breakthrough in the treatment of fractures came with the introduction of dynamic compression plating system introduced in 1968 but, this system had some inherent drawbacks. In 1973, Michlet and 1978,Champy advocated the use of small malleable monocortical plates in