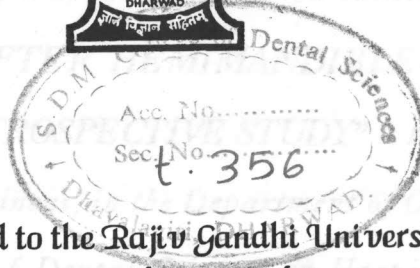


**SOFT TISSUE RECONSTRUCTION AFTER
HEMIMANDIBLECTOMY IN ORAL
MALIGNANCIES
- A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY**



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The oral cavity is an anatomic structure composed of specialized tissues, which function together and comprises of a regional physiologic unit referred to as the stomatognathic system. Its importance in the survival and adaptation of the organism to the environment is indicated in part by the early emergence of these structures both phylogenetically and ontogenetically.

The most essential structural element of the stomatognathic system is the mucosal integument. It forms the interface between the internal milieu and the physical, chemical and biological factors of the oral environment. The most important function of this integument is necessarily one of protection i.e., forming a protective barrier against adverse environmental factors in the oral cavity. The clinical and the morphological changes observed in this mucosal interface are for the most part, a result of the interaction of both these intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Because of the different etiological factors at work in the oral cavity and the easy way with which endogenous or exogenous factors may disturb the balance, it is to be expected that an unlimited variety of manifestations of local and systemic disorders might be observed in these tissues.

Carcinoma of the oral cavity is the second most common form of cancer in India and most of the patients affected are of low socioeconomic status with habits like tobacco smoking and or chewing and excessive