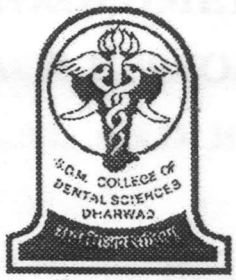
AN ASSESSMENT OF ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS IN THE HEAD AND FACE REGION OF PATIENTS WITH CLEFT LIP, UNILATERAL AND BILATERAL COMPLETE CLEFTS OF LIP AND PALATE.



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Current concepts in diagnosis and treatment planning focus on the balance and harmony of various facial features[1]. Under these circumstances, facial esthetics gains more importance than the dental occlusion. This is because, patients perceive beauty based on the overall appearance of the face and not just the dentition. Up to the present time, standards of facial harmony to be used as one of the goals in orthodontic treatment have been developed mainly on the basis of individual judgment[2]. However, the standards for facial esthetics should be based on data obtained from the general population. This would be a more scientific and practical approach rather than individual subjective opinion.

Measurements of the human face as part of the body have been performed since the Greek era. Many aspects of Greek proportion sciences, the golden proportion, canons of important renaissance artists, physical anthropology, and cephalometry can be found in modern clinical anthropometry.

Anthropometry aims at describing the morphology including size, shape and proportions of human body by using certain measurements. These measurements are defined on the basis of landmarks and have been in use for hundreds of years.

The origin of anthropometry can be traced to ancient civilization. The artists in Egypt and Greece formulated standards for human body proportion. However, this was more of an artistic representation of body proportion and not a scientific data. Scientific approach to anthropometry was laid down by ***Johan Friedrich Blumenbach (1752-1840)***[3]; further ***Paul Broca, Flower*** and ***Turner*** did specific studies and evolved the study of craniology.

Paul Broca defined the landmarks and measurements to be used in anthropometric measurements. He also developed the instruments required for