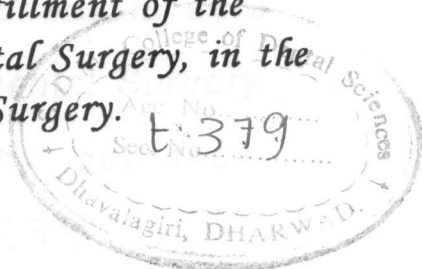


PEDIATRIC FACIAL FRACTURES: EVOLVING PATTERNS OF TREATMENT



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



September 2004

Dr. Sanjay Kar

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

Facial fractures in children are relatively uncommon. The incidence of traumatic injuries of the maxillofacial region has increased because of highly mechanized way of life in the 20th century. Excellent progress has been made in the recent years in the treatment of maxillofacial injuries but for some reasons not much has been talked about the child patient.

Facial fractures in children are uncommon compared with those in adults, yet they are no less important. Although the general approach in treatment of fractures is same for both adults and children, there are specific factors which must be considered before planning and executing the treatment.

Sound knowledge of normal anatomy and physiology is necessary in order to understand the rationale of treatment. Bones of child are highly elastic and less pneumatized, growth of face is extremely rapid during the first few years of life and healing is very fast. Hence delayed or improper treatment may lead to impairment of growth, facial deformities including TMJ ankylosis.

The mandible in a child is loaded with developing tooth buds making it fragile and predisposing it to fracture. The use of teeth for fixation in children is difficult because deciduous teeth may either be resorbed and permanent teeth may be incompletely erupted.