



**AN OBJECTIVE METHOD OF ASSESSING RESULTS  
FOLLOWING SURGICAL CORRECTION OF UNILATERAL  
INCOMPLETE CLEFT LIP**

by

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## ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUD:** To improve upon surgical results, an objective analysis of the surgical results is necessary with due consideration to be given to the patient's satisfaction.

**OBJECTIVES:** This study was designed to present a method by which objective evaluation of presurgical and postsurgical assessment of treated unilateral incomplete cleft lips could be done in a simple and reproducible manner.

**METHODS:** The study sample included 175 patients of all ages reporting to our unit between January 2004 and December 2005. Presurgical assessment of the 'initial severity score', ISS was recorded clinically based on a dual grid rating scale based on the sum of presence of specific anatomic anomalies. A severe cleft was given a higher score and simple cleft for example of only a third of the lip without any alar or septal deformity was given a score of 1. Modified Millard's rotation-advancement technique was used for surgical correction. The postsurgical 'postsurgical rating score', PRS was then assessed using the same rating scale on the eight postsurgical day based on the presence of residual defects like prominent scarring, notching etc. Photographic documentation of the patients was made for further reference and data validation. A single examiner assessed all the patients over the two-year period. To compare the two scores, the correlation between the ISS and PRS was calculated.

**RESULTS:** A mean ISS of 3.26 was achieved with a maximum of 5 and a minimum of 0.5. Mean PRS was 0.95 with a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 2. The student's paired t test comparing the two scores demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in PRS postoperatively. Hundred and fifty one patients had an ISS of 151

and more than hundred and forty patients achieved a PRS of 1 or less which was quite a significant improvement.

**CONCLUSION:** A coherent connection between the two rating grids was demonstrated by the study and also good results postsurgically were seen in our unit. Such a rating scale is a desirable aid to the surgeon to assess surgical results in an objective manner.

**KEYWORDS:** Rating scale; ISS; PRS; objective evaluation.

4. Methodology

5. Results

6. Discussion

7. Conclusion

8. Summary

9. Bibliography

10. Annexure