



EVALUATION OF SECONDARY CLEFT LIP DEFORMITIES USING V.L.S CLASSIFICATION

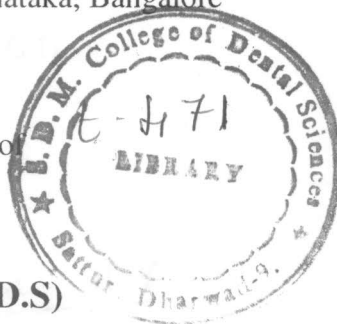
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by

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ABSTRACT

Background : To analyze the post – surgical results of unilateral secondary cleft lip deformities post-operatively using Vermilion, Lip and Scar (V.L.S.) classification.

Objectives: This study was designed to present method by which objective evaluation of secondary defects of the lip and post-surgical assessment of quality of treated unilateral secondary cleft lip deformities using a simple and reproducible Vermilion, Lip and Scar classification.

Methods: The study sample included 50 patients of all age groups requiring correction of secondary deformities of the lip, reporting to our unit between Aug 2001 to March 2006. Pre-surgical assessment of the unilateral repaired cleft lip was assessed according to V.L.S. classification based on Vermilion, lip and Scar patterns. Vermilion deformity was scored between V₀- V₇ and lip deformity scored between L₀. L₆ and scar deformity between S₀ – S₅ both pre-operatively, post-operatively and at 6 months recall period. Modified Millard's Rotation Advancement technique was used for surgical correction. The study was done both using clinical examination and photographic examination. A single examiner assessed all the patients.

Results: The student's paired 't' test was used for comparing the pre-op to post-op and post-op to 6 months results in all vermilion, lip and scar categories. Statistically significant improvement in the lip post-operatively was found in all the Vermilion, lip and Scar categories while there was no significance change in 6 month post-operative period.

Conclusion: The V.L.S. classification is objective in indicating the presence of a defect. The classification helps in valid assessment of the operated on cleft lip and also allows for consistent collection of outcome data for comparative studies. Such a classification is a desirable aid to the surgeon to assess the secondary cleft lip deformities in an objective manner.

Keywords: V.L.S Classification, Secondary deformities, Assessment.