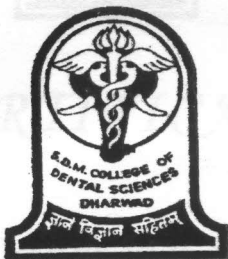
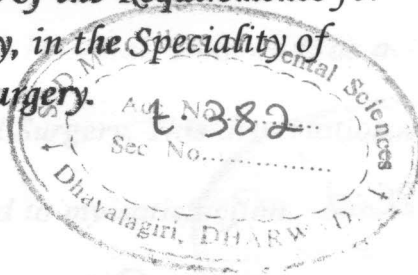


THE SURGICAL CORRECTION OF DENTOFACIAL DEFORMITIES: FACTORS AFFECTING PATIENT SATISFACTION



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Introduction

‘A physical defect, if corrected, can improve the soul’ – Jean Cocteau

The role of the face in human interactions is the crux of the problem for individuals with dentofacial deformities. As the saying goes - ‘A thing of beauty lasts forever’, a beautiful face is remembered for a long time and the sight brings joy to the heart, but a deformed face is also remembered, as a sight to be forgotten, and many a time even after the deformity has been corrected.

The surgical correction of a malocclusion is required when the positions of the jaws are so severely abnormal that correction with solely orthodontic treatment is not possible. Although surgical correction is chosen, presurgical orthodontic treatment is still usually required to align the teeth in dental arches and correct extreme tooth angulations. The pre-operative orthodontic treatment that is required usually takes more than one year and another six months of orthodontic treatment are required after surgery.

Advances over the past three decades have contributed greatly towards the surgical correction of deformities afflicting the jaws and the face. These procedures can lead to a dramatic change in the facial appearance and profile of the individual. The emotional impact of these changes may in most cases positively affect the patients’ feeling of well-being and improve their satisfaction with body image and self. However, it sometimes does lead to depression and dissatisfaction post operatively. The issue is a paradox of sorts, and many factors are involved in the final overall well-being, satisfaction and happiness of these patients. Some factors are patient-related, some related to the patient’s immediate environment including family, friend and peer interactions and support. Finally, some factors relate to the surgeon, the postoperative experience and the hospital environment.