



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

*DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE*

by

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Dissertation Submitted to the  
Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, Bangalore

In partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of

6.497

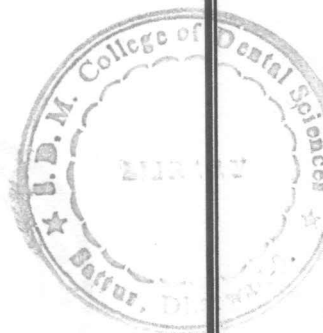
**Master of Dental Surgery (M.D.S)**

in

**ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY**

Under the guidance of  
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T-00497

APRIL 2007

## 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  $V_0$ -  $V_7$  and lip deformity scored between  $L_0$ -  $L_6$  and scar deformity between  $S_0$  -  $S_5$  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.