MONOCORTICAL MINIPLATES AS A METHOD OF FIXATION IN TREATMENT OF MANDIBULAR FRACTURES: AN EVALUATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the first known case of mandibular fracture in the 16th century B.C. to the present day, mandibular fracture has commanded special respect and attention of the surgeon, as it disrupts normal life of the patient in relation to eating, drinking, talking and social interaction.

With the ever increasing incidence of assault, vehicular accidents, there has been an increase in cases of mandibular fractures. Endeavour of the surgeon has been to re-establish the anatomical continuity of the bone to return the patient to his normal or near normal state as possible.

Various modalities of treatment have been tried but with the introduction of intermaxillary fixation definite frontiers were opened for treatment of faciomaxillary fractures.

With the improvement of our knowledge about the biocompatibility of metals and introduction of antibiotics it gave an impentus for more aggressive surgery in the treatment of fractures.

Transosseous wiring of fractures reduced by an open procedure is the simplest method of fixation. The principle underlying is to draw the two fragments of the fractured ends together. Intermaxillary fixation is a must to avoid interfragmentary movement.