

## RAPID AND SLOW PALATAL EXPANSION IN BILATERAL COMPLETE CLEFT LIP AND PALATE: CONE BEAM CT EVALUATION. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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**INTRODUCTION:** The upper dental arch of patients with complete bilateral cleft lip and palate commonly presents constricted due to the absence of the sutures and the lip and palate surgeries performed at an early age. **OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this paper is to evaluate and compare the effects of maxillary expansion between two different appliances: Haas / Hyrax and quad-helix, in patients with bilateral complete cleft lip and palate, using cone-beam computed tomography (CT). **MATERIAL AND METHODS:** The study sample will consist of 30 patients with bilateral complete cleft lip and palate with maxilla constriction and that had received primary surgeries in childhood. Patients will be divided into two study groups, treated with Haas or Hyrax expanders (Group I = 30) and quad-helix expanders (Group II = 30). For preliminary results there were 23 patients (Group I = 13 and Group II = 10). The CT examination was performed immediately pre-expansion and six months after the expansion, when the appliance was removed. The following dimensions were performed: the maxillary transverse dimensions, the inclination of the posterior teeth, the buccal bone plates thickness and the buccal and lingual bone crest in the molar anchorage in both phases of the study. Changes interphases were evaluated using the Student "t" test ( $p < 0,05$ ). Comparison of baseline characteristics of each study group, as well as the intergroup comparison of the effect of the expansion were conducted by independent t test ( $p < 0,05$ ). **PRELIMINARY RESULTS:** To date, no significant difference between groups was found.