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EVALUATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF DENTAL OCCLUSION IN PATIENTS WITH BILATERAL CLEFT LIP AND PALATE

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INTRODUCTION: Cleft lip and palate are birth defects that affect the midface, compromising the aesthetics and the orofacial function, requiring a multidisciplinary team able to perform rehabilitation treatment. **OBJECTIVES:** The aim of this study was to evaluate and classify dental malocclusion in children with bilateral cleft, through the analysis of the dental arches in plaster models according to the Index of Bilateral (Ozawa et al. 2011). **METHODS:** After approval of the ethical committee (protocol 148/10), the sample of patients consisted in 30 pairs of the arch model (upper and lower) of patients selected from Clinical Department of Maxillofacial Prosthodontics (Depto.de of Surgery, Maxillo Facial Prosthesis and Traumatology- FOUSP). There were 8 females and 22 males with bilateral cleft lip and palate (middle age of 6 years and 4 months) underwent to reconstructive primaries surgeries in classical chronology. An anamnesis, clinical examination, photos intra / extra oral and molding to fit the models work, which were analyzed by three trained examiners. The models were classified into a scale, with levels from 1 to 5, according to the severity of the poor occlusion. The patients were grouped into good, regular and poor prognosis. Data were submitted to statistical analysis. **RESULTS:** The results showed that the sample was distributed into good (46.70%), regular (36.70%) and poor (16.70%). There was no statistically significant difference between different surgical centers (p = 0.788). **CONCLUSION:** Patients with bilateral cleft from Clinical Prosthodontics Maxillofacial FOUSP showed favorable prognosis regardless of surgical centers.