



Área: Odontologia

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LONG TERM FOLLOW UP OF IMPLANTS INSTALLED IN MAXILLARY SINUS LIFTING AREAS IN CLEFT LIP AND PALATE PATIENTS

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the survival rate of implants installed in areas where maxillary sinus lifting surgeries had been performed, in cleft lip and palate (CLP) patients. **DESIGN:** A retrospective electronic search was performed in 60,000 files from 1998 to 2008. This search resulted in 35 patients (8 male and 27 female; mean age: 48,2 years) who had undergone to maxillary sinus bone grafting procedures and had osseointegrated implants installed at those areas, comprising 53 maxillary sinus lifting procedures, and 104 implants installed. A descriptive analysis was performed and the percentage of the survival and failure rates were obtained. **RESULTS:** From 104 installed implants, 7 were lost, which gives a survival rate of 93.3 %. **CONCLUSIONS:** Based on the results obtained and considering the study's methodology limitations, it can be concluded that maxillary sinus lifting procedure is an excellent treatment option, since its indications are correctly followed. **KEY-WORDS:** Dental implant; Bone graft; Maxillary sinus.