

INFLUENCE OF MAXILLARY SEGMENTS' ANTEROPOSTERIOR AND TRANSVERSE RELATIONSHIP OF BEFORE PRIMARY SURGERIES ON THE OCCLUSAL INDEX IN UCLP

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: Morphologic aspects as the maxillary segments' transverse and anteroposterior relationship may be among the etiologic factors to yield deficient maxillary growth in UCLP. This study evaluated the influence of the anteroposterior and transverse spatial relationship of maxillary segments and the cleft width on the occlusal relationship scored by the five years old index. **METHODS:** A total of 357 dental casts of the maxillary arch before repairs of UCLP were scanned and evaluated for measures of cleft width and anteroposterior and transverse spatial relationship between maxillary segments. Group 1 had maxillary segments contacting in the anterior region (N=357); Group 2 presented maxillary segments with spacing between segments and different degrees of anteroposterior discrepancy (a, b and c) (N=357), and Group 3 exhibited collapse between the two segments, being that the lesser segment presented flexure to the median region (N=357). The cleft width was subjectively scored as narrow (N), regular (R), wide (W) and very wide (WW) by visual inspection of the anterior, medial and posterior maxillary areas. Intraoral photographs at six years of age were used to obtain a rating of the dental arch relationship based on the five years old occlusal index (Scores from 1 to 5). **RESULTS:** There was no statistically significant correlation between the occlusal index and anteroposterior discrepancy between the maxillary segments. The cleft width before primary surgery influenced the outcomes of the interarch relationship. **CONCLUSIONS:** The different degrees of anteroposterior discrepancy of maxillary segments did not influence the interarch relationship. The greater cleft widths between the maxillary segments influenced the poor maxillary growth.