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Oral Presentation

RIGA CLEFT LIP AND PALATE CENTRE LONG-TERM EXPERIENCE OF ALVEOLAR BONE GRAFTING

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**Aim.** The objectives of this study was to evaluate the outcome of the alveolar bone grafting in unilateral complete cleft lip, alveolus and palate (UCLP) patients in our centre performed from January 2000 to December 2019.

**Methods.** Data were collected from the medical records, 2D x-rays, photos and casts. The results were analyzed with respect to the height of the bone in grafted area, wound healing, condition of erupting teeth and the space closure in the dental arch.

**Results.** Out of 90 operated patients, 76 (47 male and 27 female) patients were included in the study. Left side was mostly affected ( 54 vs 22). The average age of the patients at bone grafting was 10.00 years (range 6.9 - 30.3). The primary healing was observed in 73 (96.06%) patients while wound dehiscence occurred in 3 (3.94%) cases. The intra-oral radiographic observation period was 7.9month (range 5month to 2.11years). Eighty eight percent of our patients had alveolar bony height between the teeth bordering the former cleft more than 75% of the normal height of the alveolar process. If bone grafting was perform before canine or second incisor eruption, in 89% of cases alveolar arch was closed by orthodontic means. Prosthodontically closure was observed in 11% of our patients.

**Conclusion.** Long term results of bone grafting showed high rate of success. Gap closure by orthodontic means was achieved in 89% of our patients with bone grafting performed before adjusted teeth eruption.