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Assessment of transverse dental arch relationship and occlusion in surgically repaired unilateral cleft lip and palate children

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Objective: The purpose of this study was to assess and compare the transverse dental arch relationship and occlusion in surgically repaired unilateral cleft lip and palate children by Oslo protocol with those of healthy comparable non-cleft children in Egypt.

Study design: Comparative cross-sectional study design was used. Thirty-one non-syndromic children with repaired unilateral cleft lip and palate with mean age of 7.35 ± 1.52 years together with thirty-one healthy, comparable, non-cleft children were recruited from Faculty of dentistry, Alexandria University. For each subject, sagittal molar and cuspid occlusion was measured from the dental study casts. The buccolingual dental arch relationships were determined through the modified Huddart-Bodenham scoring system.

Results: Mesial step terminal plane and class III cuspid relation were significantly higher in UCLP children in the age group 4 to <6 years. Class III permanent molar and cuspid relations were significantly higher in UCLP children in both age groups 6 to <8 and 8 to <10 years. Modified Huddart-Bodenham showed significantly more negative total arch constriction score in 6-9-year old UCLP children than in non-cleft children.

Conclusions: There was a predilection for most of UCLP children in all age groups to have mesial step terminal plane in primary dentition, class III permanent molar relation in mixed dentition and Class III cuspid relations. Modified Huddart-Bodenham scores revealed that UCLP children suffered from constricted maxillary arch in all age groups especially in the canine region.

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