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Palatal Plate, an Interim Obturator for the Relapsed Cleft Palate: A Case Report

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Abstract


Background: An obturator is a prosthesis used to close acquired or congenital tissue openings, primarily of hard palate or contiguous alveolar structures. Palatal defect of any extent can cause multiple problems in speech, mastication and esthetics. A palatal obturator is used to compensate for hyper nasality and aid in speech therapy. In this case, the patient had a Veau-II classification with teeth 17 and 27 missing.

Introduction

Cleft lip and palate is one of the most common craniofacial anomalies in humans. Clefts of the palate and lips may be syndromic or non-syndromic¹. The syndromic types are by definition associated with malformations and include the Pierre Robin syndrome, Treacher Collins syndrome, and Apert syndrome. Non-syndromic clefts are polygenic or multifactorial in nature. The prosthetic management of patients with cleft palate deformities has challenged clinicians for centuries. Hence, the prosthesis constructed is meant to serve more than one purpose. The prosthetic devices must not only serve as an obturator to prevent liquid from leaking into the nasal cavity, but also help to improve speech readability and provide a functional and aesthetic replacement. Palatal obturators are short-term prosthetics used to close defects of the hard/soft palate that may affect speech or nasal regurgitation during feeding. A palatal obturator may be used to compensate for hyper nasality and aid in speech therapy by targeting the correction of a compensatory

articulation caused by the cleft lip and cleft palate.² There are three different types of obturators: the immediate surgical, interim, and definitive. Interim obturators are utilized during the postsurgical phases; it add on to surgical healing and serves as a temporary prosthesis for a patient with intra-oral surgical defect. A palatal plate is type of palatal obturator; it is a prosthetic device generally consisting of an acrylic plate and retention clasps of orthodontic wire, covering the fistula of a palate.

In this article, case has been discussed in which patient had cleft palate for which he had undergone surgery and surgery had relapsed. Interim obturator in form of palate plate was fabricated for the patient till the time he would undergo surgery again to help him deglutition and speech.

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