Orthognathic Surgery and Facial Contouring in Cleft Patients: A functional and aesthetic challenge

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Orthognathic Surgery is essential in many cleft patients for improving the patients facial and dental condition at the end of growth.

Often, the indication for orthognathic surgery (OGS) in cleft patients has been limited to correcting the malocclusion. State of the art treatment criteria requires us to revisit the indications for OGS in cleft patients in a broader context, taking into account correction of the facial stigma based on midfacial convexity and nasolabial/occlusal asymmetry as well as the impact of OGS on all orofacial functions.

This lecture gives an overview on the principle of planning OGS to create the patients individual features whilst eliminating the “group-cleft features”. Occlusal correction is submitted to this first principle of facial correction. Other considerations are the impact of OGS on nasal breathing, speech and velopalatal insufficiency, facial expression and finally snoring and sleep apnea.

OGS alone cannot always correct all cleft-related facial deformity characteristics and must therefore be complemented with further facial contouring and soft tissues corrections such as lip and nose revisions.

Finally, as surgeons working in multidisciplinary teams we must measure the quality of care we provide not only in terms of surgical success and occlusal correction, but also by validating these outcomes using patient-centered measurement tools such as quality of life and self-image improvement.

This lecture will deal with all aspects of planning and execution of OGS in cleft patients, additional contouring techniques and patient-centered outcome measurement results.
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Piet E Haers is currently honorary visiting Professor at the Postgraduate Medical School of the University of Surrey, Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, and Clinical Director and Cleft Surgeon of the South-Thames Cleft Team at the Evelyna London Children’s Hospital.

He was Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (1999–2011). He is currently President of IAOMS and member of the board of directors of IAOMS. He is member of the Consensus Group of the International Academy of Oral and Facial Rehabilitation and of the Strasbourg Osteosynthesis Research Group.

He studied medicine and dentistry in Belgium and trained in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Bruges in Belgium, Arnhem in the Netherlands, and Zurich in Switzerland.

Between 1992 and 1999 he was member of staff of the Department of Oral and Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery at the University Hospital of Zurich. His main surgical interests are facial deformity with cleft lip and palate surgery, orthognathic surgery, sleep apnea, facial plastic surgery, dental implants and pre-implant surgery and TMJ surgery. His main research interests are 3D imaging and the application of biodegradable materials in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

He received a FDS RCS ad eundem in 1999 and was elected fellow of the International College of Dentists in 2002 and the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher LEOPOLDINA, the German Academy of Science in 2004.