

INTEGRATED TREATMENT OF CLEFT LIP PALATE: A CASE REPORT

Introduction: Cleft lip and palate (CLP) is an anomaly characterized by the deterioration of the lip and palate integrity as a result of insufficient development of embryonic tissues during the formation of the maxilla. Although it is possible to reconstruct the defect with surgical intervention, some cases may not be reconstructed completely. These developmental clefts in the nasomaxillary complex cause aesthetic, phonetic and functional distortions. In these patients, obturator prostheses to cover the defect area combined with fixed prostheses are included as the traditional treatment method in the prosthetic treatments. However, especially in edentulous CLP patients, the insufficiency of the remaining supporting tissues and the gravity affect the retention negatively. For this reason, the use of implants provides great benefit if the general health status of the patient is suitable. In this case report, an obturator prosthesis that gets additional retention from implant supported fixed prostheses was presented.

Case description: A male patient with CLP who has no systemic diseases was referred to Istanbul University with the complaints of aesthetic and functional deficiencies. Since general health and bone structure were suitable, a total of 6 implants for the right and left side of the maxilla were done. For prosthodontic treatment, it was planned to make a crown to the tooth numbered 23, which is the only natural tooth in the upper jaw, and fixed prostheses over the implants with metal-porcelain material were done. For the rehabilitation of nasomaxillary cleft, an obturator prosthesis with clasps were made.

Discussion: Obturator prosthesis retained by implant supported fixed prosthesis offers an advantageous treatment option to eliminate retention problems of conventional obturator prosthesis.

Keywords: obturator, cleft palate, cleft lip, esthetics, quality of life