



Clinical Results after Secondary Bone Grafting into Alveolar Cleft

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An important goal in the treatment of cleft patients is to normalize the function and anatomy of the cleft region. The bone grafting into alveolar process have been performed to achieve this goal: closure of oro-nasal fistula, stabilization of maxillary segment, allowing canine eruption to the cleft, and so on. This study investigated the results of secondary bone grafting in our clinic.

From 1990 to 1996, secondary bone grafting was performed to 180 patients in our clinic. Except for late secondary bone graft, UCLA and UCLP patients were selected. The subject were divided into 3 groups with regard to the technique of closure. X-ray photography was performed 1 month, 3 months, 6 months after operation. The duration of bone bridge formation, marginal bone level on the teeth adjacent to the cleft, and bone level of nasal side were examined. There was a correlation between the width of the cleft and the marginal bone level in UCLA. Most of patients acquired bone bridge formation within 3 month. Comparison with operative technique, the marginal bone level was high in the group of using gingival mucoperiosteal flap. In addition, the morphologic improvement of alar base was obtained after secondary bone grafting.