



Observation of the Canine Teeth After Secondary Autogenous Bone Grafting to the Alveolar Cleft

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A qualitative evaluation of canine tooth migration and bone bridge formation following bone grafting was done. A total of 107 cases of alveolar bone grafting was done in our clinic between March 1983 and March 1997. Subjects of this study were 28 patients with a total of 34 alveolar clefts, all of which underwent bone grafting. The age range at the time of bone grafting was 8 to 14 years old.

The unerupted group had 16 patients with a total of 19 clefts, and the erupted group had 12 patients with a total of 15 clefts.

In the unerupted group, the canine position and bone height were measured on radiographs taken pre-and postoperatively. We analyzed according to the modified method of assessment of bone support for teeth adjacent to alveolar cleft(Long, 1995). In two clefts, surgical exposure and traction were needed for canine migration. In other clefts(17 clefts), the canine tooth erupted into the grafted bone spontaneously.

The two groups were compared for bone bridge formation; the unerupted group had the wider, hence better, bone bridge formation than the erupted group.