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Role Of Adjacent Soft Tissues In Determining Dimensions Of Maxillary Anterior Teeth

Research Article

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Abstract

Background and Aim of Study: Successful restoration of a tooth within the aesthetic boundaries results in a distinctly positive effect on the patient's self-esteem and quality of life. Thus, the aim of this study was to examine and evaluate the relationship of adjacent facial soft tissue measurements as a guide to the dimensions of maxillary anterior teeth in dentate male and female individuals of Indian origin.

Materials and Methods: This study included a total of 58 dentate subjects i.e. 29 male and 29 female individuals. Various soft tissue landmarks were compared with hard tissue measurements. The obtained data will be analysed using SPSS software version 20. Male and female Groups will be compared by independent Student's t test. Pearson's correlation analysis will be done to assess association between the variables. p < 0.05 will be considered as statistically significant.

Results: The difference between the mean value of Philtrum length between male and female found to be significant (p<0.001). The difference between the mean value of upper lip length of male with that of female when compared was also found to be significant (p<0.001). Similarly, the mean lower lip length of Male was 43.357 and female was 42.528. Hence, statistically not significant.

Conclusions: The Philtrum length, upper lip length and lower lip length correlates with the width of maxillary lateral incisor in male population. Similarly maxillary central incisor width also correlates between Philtrum length and lower lip length. In female the correlation is found to be negative and weak.

Keywords: Hard Tissue; Soft Tissue; Lip Length; Facial Height; Combined Width Of Maxillary Anterior Teeth.

Introduction

The human face plays an important role in highlighting human individuality, identity, and personality. In an economically, socially, and professionally competitive world, an overall attractive and pleasant look is becoming a necessity. For many years, it has been believed that the look or appearance of a person imparts to their initial impression, which lasts long. According to Young "it is apparent that beauty, harmony, naturalness, and individuality are major qualities" of aesthetics [1]. The dental appearance is an integral part of facial beauty. This has led to an increased interest in dental aesthetic among dentists and patients [2, 3]. Restoring the lost tooth or teeth with proper form, function, occlusion, and aesthetics will be the primary goal of the Prosthodontist. Successful restoration of teeth within the aesthetic boundaries results in a distinctly positive effect on the patient's self-esteem and quality of life [4, 5].

Maxillary anterior teeth play a pivotal role in aesthetics since they are visible to a casual observer in unstrained facial activity. A harmonious dentition of an individual has been found to be comprised of proper shape, size, and arrangement of the maxillary anterior teeth [6]. Missing maxillary anterior teeth does not only change the facial appearance but also causes psychological trauma to the individual. Therefore, appropriate selection of size of artificial maxillary anterior teeth is crucial.

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The natural positioning of the teeth in mouth and their size provides an optimal guide during fabrication of the prosthesis [7, 8]. These pre-extraction records can be profile photograph, radiograph, articulating cast, etc. Selection and replacement of maxillary anterior teeth in the absence of such pre-extraction records is one of the major hurdles in clinical prosthodontics and is usually done arbitrarily [9].

Few studies have reported tooth size variation between different ethnic groups. Various facial guidelines such as bizygomatic, intercommisural, interalar, intercanthal width, lip length, and facial height have been suggested by various authors for deciding the size of the upper anterior teeth, but their reliability is still in question [10-21]. Therefore, speciality of prosthodontics is still in search of a valid and reliable facial measurement for selection of artificial maxillary anterior teeth.

Materials And Methods

Source Of The Data

This study was conducted in the Department of Prosthodontics and Crown and Bridge, A. B. Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences (NITTE, deemed to be University), Mangaluru. Institutional Ethical committee approval was obtained for this observational study. This study included a total of 58 dentate subjects, 29 male and 29 female individuals. The sample size was calculated based on [21], 5% level of significance, 80% power and an effect size of 0.36, α -error 0.05 using nMaster software. A written consent was obtained from all the participants included in the study. Measurements were taken with subjects seated in an upright position with unsupported head, natural head position maintained with closed mouth and lip relaxed on the bases of Anthropology. Three soft tissue (facial landmarks) measurements (fig 1)were carried out and marked on a thread. The thread was then measured using Digital Vernier Caliper (Mitutoyo Ltd., UK). a) Philtrum length (PL)was measured and marked between the base of the nose and superior border of the upper lip at midline, ensuring minimal pressure to the tissues [21].

b) Upper lip length (ULL)was measured between the base of the nose and inferior border of the upper lip at midline [21].

c) Lower lip length (LLL)was measured between the superior border of the lower lip and soft tissue Menton (Me) at the midline.

1. Before measuring the inter-commissural width (ICW), the participants were asked toopen and close the mouth widely several times to allow fatigued muscles to relax during the measurement. The lip vermilion was measured between left and right commissure of the mouth using the Digital Vernier Caliper. This was considered as inter-commissural width (ICW). (fig 2)

2. Mesio-distal dimension or width of maxillary central incisor (CIW), lateral incisor (LIW) and canine (CW) was measured intraorally, between interproximal contact points of each tooth with a Digital Vernier Caliper.(fig 3)

3. Length of maxillary central incisor (CIL), lateral incisor (LIL) and canine (CL) was measured intraorally, from the gingival zenith to the incisal edge of the tooth in case of maxillary incisors and up to cusp tip in case of maxillary canines, with the help of Digital Vernier Caliper.(fig 4)

4. Combined width of six maxillary anterior teeth (CWMA) is measured intraorally [38], between the distal surface of the left and right canines using a thread placed at the greatest facial curvature superio-inferiorly and thread was measured using digital Vernier caliper (Mitutoyo Ltd., UK). (fig 5)

The data obtained will be in millimetres. The data will be tabulated and analysed. The obtained data will be then analysed using SPSS software version 20. The data will be summarized as Mean \pm SD (standard deviation). Male and female Groups will be compared by independent Student's t test. Pearson's correlation analysis will be done to assess association between the variables. p <0.05 will be considered as statistically significant.

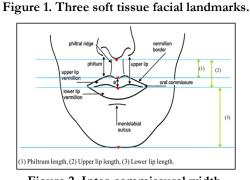


Figure 2. Inter-commissural width.



Figure 3. Mesio-distal dimension or width of maxillary anterior teeth.



Figure 4. Length of maxillary anterior teeth.



Figure 5. Combined width of six maxillary anterior teeth.



Results

The subjects selected for the study belonged to an age group between 18 to 25 years. The mean age was 20.86 with the standard deviation of 2.064. The mean Philtrum length in male was 11.584mm and that of female was 10.283mm. The difference between the mean value was found to be significant (p<0.001). Comparison was done using students unpaired t test. The mean upper lip length of male was 20.945 mm and that of female was 18.42mm, with the Standard deviation of 2.402 and the difference between the mean value found to be significant (p<0.001). It was compared by using students unpaired t-test. Similarly, the mean lower lip length in case of Male was 43.357 mm and in case of female it was 42.528 mm. Here the difference is very small and statistically it showed as not significant (p=0.302).

The mean Canine length on the right and left between male and female was compared separately by using student unpaired t-test. The mean Canine lengths on the right side in case of male were 9.288mm and 0.902 was the standard deviation, similarly in female it was 9.32mm with the Standard deviation of 0.569. The difference between the mean value found to be not significant (p=0.873). However, the Canine length on the left of Male was 9.282mm and in female it was 9.281mm. Here the difference is minute and statistically it showed as not significant (p=0.997).

Even while comparing the Canine width right and left between the genders, there was no statistical significance. Canine width right in Male was 7.486mm and 7.311mm in female. The difference between Male and female was not statistically significant (p=0.196). The mean Canine width on the left side was compared between Male and Female. In which it was 7.49mm in male and in Female it was 7.307mm and the difference was not statistically significant (p=0.185). The length of Lateral incisor on the right and left were also compared between the genders, which showed no statistical significance. In Male the right lateral incisor length was 8.5 mm with the standard deviation of 0.437 and 8.261 mm in female with the standard deviation of 0.685.

The dissimilarity between Male and Female was not statistically significant (p=0.119). Similarly, the mean lateral incisor length at left side was also compared. In Male, lateral incisor length was 8.509 mm and in Female it was 8.26 mm. This difference was not statistically significant (p=0.099).

The width of the Lateral incisor on the right and left between the gender was compared by using students unpaired t-test. There was no statistical significance either in the right or left. In Male the lateral incisor width on the right was 6.8 mm and 6.61 mm in female with the standard deviation of 0.491. The difference between Male and Female was not statistically significant (p=0.092). Similarly, the mean lateral incisor width at left side was compared between Male and Female. In Male, lateral incisor width left was 6.764 mm and in Female it was 6.572 mm. This difference was not statistically significant (p=0.08) too.

The Central incisor length right and left between the gender was compared to see the difference. We found that there was statistical significance between Male and female in both right and left groups. In Male the Central incisor length at right was 9.771 mm and 10.368 mm in female with the standard deviation of 0.468. The difference between Male and Female was found to be statistically significant (p=0.002). Similarly, the mean Central incisor length at left side was compared between Male and Female. In Male, Central incisor length left was 9.783 mm and in Female it was 10.396 mm. Hence the difference in the measurement was

statistically significant (p=0.002).

The difference between the Width of the Central incisor on the right and left side between the genders when compared was also shown to be statistically significant. In Male the width of the Central incisor on the right was 8.592 mm and 8.364 mm in female. The difference between Male and Female was found to be statistically significant (p=0.026). Similarly, the mean width of the Central incisor on the left when compared, in Male it was 8.585 mm and in Female it was 8.41 mm. Here the difference in the measurement was statistically not significant (p=0.086).

We have compared the mean combined width of maxillary anterior (mm) between male and female by using students unpaired t test. The mean width of male was 50.58mm and that of female was 48.551 mm.The difference between the mean value found to be significant (p=0.002).

The mean Inter commissural width (mm) between male and female were compared by using students unpaired t test. The mean Inter commissural width of male was 45.002 and in female it was 43.911.The difference between the mean value found to be insignificant (p=0.107).

Correlation between Philtrum length, upper and lower lip length with hard tissue measurements of width were estimated with the Pearson's correlation coefficient (table 1). There is positive correlation between Philtrum lengths with hard tissue measurements in Male. Philtrum length, upper lip length and lower lip length with Maxillary lateral incisor width was found to be moderate positive correlation (0.478 and 0.6) and found to be significant. Similarly maxillary central incisor width also shows moderate correlation between Philtrum length and lower lip length but with upper lip length the correlation is positive and weak (0.281). In female the correlation is found to be negative and weak. Correlation between the Philtrum length, upper lip length and lower lip length with hard tissue measurements of length was estimated (table 2). Here the correlation is found to be positive in case of Philtrum length and maxillary canine length (0.57) and with maxillary lateral incisor length it was 0.542. Similarly, lower lip length with maxillary lateral incisor length was found to be 0.584 which was highly significant (<0.001). In female the correlation is weak. The maximum correlation of r=0.37 was seen between Philtrum length and maxillary canine length and then with maxillary central incisor length(r=0.312) but the correlation between upper lip length and Lower lip length with maxillary canine length was found to be weak negative. The measurement of lower lip length with maxillary central incisor length was having moderate negative correlation (r=-0.475).

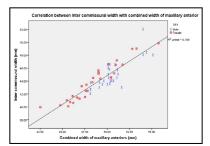
Correlation between Inter commissural width with combined width of maxillary anterior was done. Inter-commissural width shows positive correlation with the combined width of maxillary anterior teeth for both male and female population (r = 0.806 and 0.953). (fig 6)

Discussion

During oral rehabilitation, a dentist must emphasize on development of a pleasant smile and orofacial expression for the patient [22, 23]. Maxillary anterior teeth are very important in this regard [11]. These teeth must be in harmony with the facial measurements for enhanced facial aesthetics [24]. Once these teeth are properly restored, the patient's self-esteem and self-confidence are often improved [25, 17].

Selection of most appropriate size of artificial maxillary anterior teeth has always been a challenge during prosthetic treatment. It becomes even more difficult in absence of pre-extraction records [26]. Various facial measurements have been suggested in the literature for determining the size of the artificial maxillary anterior

Figure 6. Correlation between Inter commissural width with combined width of maxillary anterior teeth.



| Table 1. Correlation between Philtrum length, Upper lip length and Lower lip length with hard tissue measurements |
|---|
| (width). |

| Gender | Length | Maxillary Canine width | | | ry Lateral or width | Maxillary Central incisor width | |
|--------|------------------|---------------------------|-------|--------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | | r | р | r | р | r | р |
| Male | Philtrum length | 0.27 | 0.157 | 0.478 | 0.009 ** | 0.356 | 0.058 |
| | Upper lip length | 0.069 | 0.724 | 0.478 | 0.009 ** | 0.281 | 0.14 |
| | Lower Lip length | 0.062 | 0.747 | 0.6 | 0.001 *** | 0.443 | 0.016 * |
| Female | Philtrum length | -0.18 | 0.35 | -0.115 | 0.551 | -0.146 | 0.451 |
| | Upper lip length | -0.16 | 0.407 | 0.034 | 0.863 | -0.121 | 0.531 |
| | Lower Lip length | -0.234 | 0.222 | -0.165 | 0.391 | -0.249 | 0.192 |

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| Table 2. Correlation between Philtrum length, U | Jpper lip length and | Lower lip length with h | hard tissue measurements |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | (length). | | |

| Gender | Length | Maxillary Ca- nine length | | | ry Lateral or length | Maxillary Central incisor length | |
|--------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | | r | р | r | р | r | р |
| Male | Philtrum length | 0.57 | 0.001 *** | 0.542 | 0.002 ** | 0.396 | 0.033 * |
| | Upper lip length | 0.012 | 0.949 | 0.335 | 0.075 | -0.023 | 0.907 |
| | Lower Lip length | 0.189 | 0.326 | 0.584 | 0.001 *** | 0.185 | 0.336 |
| Female | Philtrum length | 0.37 | 0.048 | 0.238 | 0.213 | 0.312 | 0.099 |
| | Upper lip length | -0.063 | 0.746 | 0.171 | 0.376 | 0.337 | 0.074 |
| | Lower Lip length | -0.124 | 0.518 | -0.26 | 0.173 | -0.475 | 0.009 ** |

teeth, but their reliability is still in question [15].

Latta, Weaver, and Conkin, (1991) measured the width of the mouth, the Interalar width, the bizigomatic width, and the Interpupilary distance, concluded that more than one variable is needed to predict the width of maxillary anterior teeth [11].

Sellen PN et al. (1993) reviewed the methods used to select artificial anterior teeth for the edentulous individuals. They stated that till date, no universally reliable method of determining tooth form has been found [27].

Al Wazzan KA et al (1995) found no correlation between the width of the mouth and the mesio-distal width of the maxillary anterior teeth in their study [17].

The "Typal form concept" projected by W.R. Hall, 1887 [28] "Tabular Dimension Table Method," was presented by Clapp(1910). This method was based on selecting tooth size from the overall dimension of six anterior teeth and the vertical tooth space present in the patient [29] Williams proposed "Typal form method," in 1914 [30].

"Wavrin Instrumental Guide Technique" (1920), was a combination of Berry's Biometric ratio method and the William's typal form teeth [31]. "Wright's Photometric Method" was based on using a photograph of the patient with natural teeth and establishing a ratio by comparative computation of measurements of like areas of the face and photograph [32].

According to "Anthropometric Cephalic Index Method," proposed by Sears (1941) the width of the upper central incisor could be determined by dividing either the transverse circumference of the head by 13 or the bizygomatic width by 3.3. The tooth length was in proportion to the face length [33]. In White's Concept (1954) artificial teeth were arbitrarily selected to suit the patient's temperament. According to H.Pound's Concept (1954), Width of the maxillary central incisor can be evaluated by dividing the "bizygomatic width (one to one half inches back of the lateral corner of the eyes) by 16. The length of the maxillary central incisor is calculated by dividing the length of the face (distance from the hairline to the lower edge of the bone of the chin with the face at rest) by 16 [22].

Dentogenic Concept of teeth selection was put forth by Frush and Fischer in 1955. This concept has been explained as the prosthodontic appearance interpretation of three vital factors which every patient possess. The factors are sex, personality, and age of the patient [34, 35].

Therefore, this research was carried out as an attempt to understand if there is any correlation exists between soft tissue facial measurements and dimensions of maxillary anterior teeth.

This study assessed the correlation between philtrum length, upper lip length, lower lip length to length and width of the maxillary anterior teeth. It also assessed the correlation between intercommissural width and combined width of maxillary anterior teeth.

According to the results of the present study Philtrum length, upper lip length and lower lip length shows positive correlation with the width of maxillary lateral incisor (0.478 and 0.6) in male population. Similarly maxillary central incisor width also shows positive correlation between Philtrum length and lower lip length (0.443). In female the correlation is found to be negative and weak.

Also, Philtrum length shows positive correlation with maxillary canine length (0.57) and maxillary lateral incisor length (0.542) in male population. Similarly, lower lip length shows positive correlation with the length of maxillary lateral incisor (0.584). In femalepopulation, the correlation was weak, and the maximum correlation was seen between Philtrum length and maxillary canine length and then with maxillary central incisor length. A negative correlation was found between lower lip length and maxillary central incisor length.

A study conducted by Jain S et al. (2018) concluded that Philtrum length can be taken as guide for selecting width of the central incisor in female population. It can also use as guide for selecting height and width of both incisors in male. Lip length can be used as guide for selecting the size of both central and lateral incisors in male, whereas in female it can be used only for selecting lateral incisor size [21].

According to the present study, inter-commissural width shows positive correlation with the combined width of maxillary anterior teeth for both male and female population (r= 0.806 and 0.953).

Similar results were found in the study by Gomes et al in 2006. They also found positive correlation between the combined width of maxillary anterior teeth and inter-commissural width [1].

Another study conducted by Hussain MW et al. in 2018, concluded that inter-commissural width can be used as a guide for the selection maxillary anterior teeth in Saudi female population [36]. Earlier studies conducted by Kini AY et al. suggested that the Inter-commissural width measured using standardised photographs can be used to determine the combined widths of the anterior teeth accurately [37]. Their results were in accordance with the results of the current study.Whereas the study conducted by Deogade SC et al. suggested that inter-commissural width is not a reliable guide for the selection of artificial maxillary anterior teeth. However, they can be used as an adjunct to other method [38]. There are various controversial statements in literature regarding use of facial measurements as a guide for selection of artificial maxillary anterior teeth. It may differ among different populations as well. The present study can serve as a guide for Indian population.

Conclusion

Within the limitations of the study, following conclusions were drawn:

1. For male population, Philtrum length and lower lip length can be used as a guide for selecting length and width of the maxillary lateral incisor, width of maxillary central incisor. Philtrum length can also be used as a guide for selecting length of maxillary canine.

2. For female population, Philtrum length can be used as a guide for selecting length of maxillary central incisor and canine. Lower lip length can be used for selecting width of maxillary central incisor.

3. Inter-commissural width was strongly correlated with combined width of maxillary anterior teeth. Therefore, it can serve as guide for selection of artificial maxillary anterior teeth in absence of pre-extraction records.

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