

COMPLICATIONS AFTER PLASTIC SURGERY OF THE UPPER AND LOWER JAWS

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Annotation

Plastic surgery of the upper (maxillary) and lower (mandibular) jaws is aimed at improving facial aesthetics and restoring essential functions such as chewing, speech, and breathing. Despite a high success rate (90–95%), postoperative complications may occur, including aesthetic, functional, surgical-technical, infectious, neurological, vascular, and psychological issues. This thesis summarizes the main complications and their impact on patient quality of life and dental rehabilitation.

Keywords

Plastic surgery, maxilla, mandible, postoperative complications, dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery

Introduction

Plastic surgery of the maxillary and mandibular regions is complex and performed to improve aesthetics and restore oral functions. Common procedures include orthognathic surgery, mandibular fracture repair, reconstructive surgery, and dental implantation. Despite advances in surgical techniques, complications remain a challenge, affecting aesthetic outcomes, occlusion, rehabilitation, and psychological well-being.

Main Complications

1. Aesthetic and Functional

- Maxilla: Facial asymmetry, unnatural upper lip/nose, smile deformity, altered facial proportions.

- Mandible: Chin projection changes, lip–chin relationship disturbance, soft tissue contour irregularities.
- Functional issues: Malocclusion, impaired chewing, speech disorders, trismus, TMJ dysfunction.

2. Surgical-Technical and Bone Issues

- Improper bone positioning, displacement/fracture of plates and screws, malunion/nonunion, bone necrosis.
- Nerve injuries: infraorbital (maxilla), inferior alveolar/lingual (mandible); 10–20% may be permanent.
- Vascular injuries: bleeding, hematoma formation.

3. Infectious and Sinus Complications

- Wound infections, osteomyelitis, delayed healing, implant-associated infection.
- Maxillary sinus issues: sinus mucosa damage, sinusitis, nasal congestion.

4. Psychological Consequences

- Prolonged swelling, pain, poor scar healing, failure to meet expected outcomes.
- Leads to dissatisfaction, anxiety, depressive states.
- Multidisciplinary care (surgeon, orthodontist, prosthodontist, psychologist) is crucial.

Conclusion

Postoperative complications of jaw plastic surgery can significantly affect aesthetics, function, rehabilitation, and patient quality of life. Careful preoperative assessment, precise surgical execution, and coordinated multidisciplinary postoperative management are essential to minimize complications.

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