Surgical Correction of Facial Clefts

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The exact incidence of facial clefts is not known as data collecting system is not standardized, the gross incidence is reported as 1.43-4.85 birth per 100,000 birth.

Two leading theories of facial cleft formation exist. The Dursy’s classical theory of failure of fusion of facial processes and Polizer’s theory of mesodermal migration and penetration failure. Though these theories based on the studies of cleft lip and palate morphogenesis in nonhuman embryos, it is highly probable that rare craniofacial clefts are produced by similar mechanisms. Aside from the Treacher Collins and Goldenhar syndromes, heredity appears to play a minor role in the formation of most rare craniofacial clefts; the majority of atypical clefts occur sporadically. Because the clefts are so rare and diverse, classifying craniofacial clefts is not a simple one. Based on extensive personal experience and observation, Tessier proposed cleft numbering system and Van der Meulen and associates attempted to explain the craniofacial clefts on an embryologic basis.

Though experienced cleft cases are not so many in our department, we report our cases, two of them; Tessier No. 7 cleft comissuroorrhaphied with mouth corner musles alignement and z-plasty with review of literatures.

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