Scope of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery:

Experience in Jaffna

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Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) is a branch of surgery to treat a wide spectrum of diseases, injuries and defects of face, jaws, oral cavity, oropharynx, neck and associated structures. The specialty is still evolving worldwide. We recall our experience in the year 2016 and 2017, the initial two years since the OMFS unit is first established in TH Jaffna.

The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department of the Teaching Hospital – Jaffna treats a variety of emergent and non-emergent conditions providing almost full spectrum of the treatments covered by the speciality to the people of the Northern Province.

Routines of the OMFS unit include clinic activities, minor operations as office based procedures, operating theatre surgeries and inward patient managements with average 982 patients being seen in the clinic per month. Treatments may be performed on the maxillofacial complex: mouth, jaws, face, neck and include:

Maxillofacial trauma: TH – Jaffna being a tertiary care center receiving patients with severe injuries and average 72 patients undergoing ORIF for facial bone fracture per year. OMFS trauma care entails fixation of orbital, frontal and facial bone fractures and surgical treatment of soft tissue injuries. Some cases require a team approach that may include neurosurgery, ENT and ophthalmology.

ORIF orbital, zygomaticomaxillary and sphenoid fracture

ORIF frontal bone and naso-orbito-ethmoidal fracture

Orthognathic surgery: (Corrective jaw surgery) Facial bone deformities with discrepancies in the jaw relationship which can be present at birth or develop later in life may include: lower jaw protrusion, receding upper jaw, a combination of the two conditions, facial elongation, small size lower jaw, facial asymmetry, or an open bite. The treatment for these conditions is surgical.

Lefort 1 maxillary impaction and mandibular advancement for jaw discrepancy

Craniofacial malformations: Children born with facial deformities suffer tremendously, from functional, aesthetic, and psychological aspects. OMFS team involves in diagnosis and treatment of congenital craniofacial malformations -cleft lip and palate and associated syndromic deformities such as hemifacial microsomia, Pierre Robin's sequence, cranial vault malformations etc. We have operated 172 patients with cleft related facial deformity within last two years.

Cleft lip and palate repair

Correction of hemi-facial microsomia

Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) surgery: TMJ patients may present with a variety of symptoms, such as difficulty in opening the mouth, limitation of jaw movement, clicking or chronic joint pain. Our treatment approach is tailored for each condition, and ranges from conservative management, medical treatments, intra articular steroid injections, arthrocentesis and surgical alternatives offered in cases where other treatments are ineffective or in cases of TMJ ankylose

TMJ ankyloses treated with mandibular distraction osteogenesis and TMJ reconstruction with costochondral graft.

Obstructive sleep apnea: Surgery is offered in case of maxillofacial structural deformity is contributing to OSA and snoring. Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty, base of tongue reduction, tonsillectomy is performed when flabby soft palate and pharyngeal walls, tongue hypertrophy and tonsillar hypertrophy are the cause for OSA and snoring. Maxillomandibular advancement is a very effective treatment for OSA when a receding maxilla and mandible is the cause for obstruction of upper airway.

Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty for OSA and snoring in background of bulky oropharyngeal tissue.

Reconstructive facial surgery: Serious injuries, tumor resections, facial deformity of the face often leave large gaps in the hard and soft tissues. This unit restores facial bones, orbits, cheekbones, forehead and soft tissue defects of face, neck, oral cavity and oropharynx.

Long term facial nerve paralysis treated with Botox injection, Gold weight eyelid implant and facial reanimation with temporalis muscle flap

Facial aesthetics: OMF surgery takes care of a wide range of aesthetic facial conditions, such as nose deformity, external ear deformity, eyelid deformity, chin deformity, depressed cheekbones, and small or pronounced jaw angle. Perform Rhinoplasty, oculoplasty, otoplasty, cheek augmentation, chin augmentation, genioplasty, blepharoplasty, browlift, injectable fillers treatments and botox injections.

Rhinoplasty

Benign tumors: Excision of benign tumors of face, jaws and neck, odontogenic & non odontogenic bone cysts and tumors, soft tissue tumors etc.

Excision of an aggressive benign tumor (neuroectodermal tumor of infancy)

Malignant tumors: Oral, oropharyngeal, maxillary and mandibular cancer treated with resection of primary tumor and neck dissection followed by reconstructive surgery with local and regional flaps.

Hemimandibulectomy, extensive wide local excision and neck dissection reconstructed with pectoralis major flap

Salivary gland diseases: Parotid tumors, obstructive salivary gland pathology being the common presentations.

Superficial parotidectomy for pleomorphic adenoma

Vascular malformations: Managed with a range of treatment options including conservative management, intra-lesional steroids and STD injections, medical management and surgical excision of hemangiomas and lymphangiomas

Excision of cheek haemangioma

Diagnosis and management of infections of mouth, jaws, face and neck, chronic facial pain disorders, mucous membrane disorders including skin-related diseases and potentially malignant disorders in the mouth, dentoalveolar surgery are few other treatment modalities provided by the OMFS department.

Ethical considerations

All patients have given written consent for publication and the author declare that there is no conflict of interests.