Dento-facial Deformity

Corrective Jaw Surgery (Orthognathic Surgery)

The Australian Craniofacial Unit has a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach to the management of dento-facial deformity.

Dento-facial deformities are common in general population, ranging from mild abnormalities of the teeth and jaw to significant facial deformities associated with syndromes of the face and skull. The multidisciplinary approach is necessary to optimise outcomes and the same care and attention to detail is extended to all patients from the most mild deformity to the most significant deformity.

Patients present to the Australian Craniofacial Unit because they are concerned about their own appearance or they are referred by their orthodontist because of concerns regarding their occlusion or bite.

The main goal of treatment is to provide a satisfied patient. The surgical goals are to provide a stable occlusion and improve function, in particular occlusal and airway function.

The team includes a surgeon, orthodontist, ENT, speech therapist and social worker and psychologist.

An initial planning meeting is arranged in which the patient, orthodontist and surgeons meet to discuss treatment options. Available are special investigations: photographs, dental models, x-rays and cephalometric measurements to aid in this process.

Corrective jaw surgery is based on a staged treatment plan.

1. Orthodontic treatment is commenced to align teeth and prepare for surgery. Dental extractions, exposure of unerupted teeth etc. can be managed during this period.
2. Corrective jaw surgery is performed at WCH or RAH. The aim is to correct the jaw discrepancy.
3. Post-surgical orthodontics
4. Retention phase
5. Soft tissue procedures, for example: rhinoplasty, genioplasty at the patients request.

Management of dento-facial is patient focussed and multi-disciplinary care aims to minimize less than ideal outcomes and maximize positive outcomes. Planning is the most important aspect.

Please direct referrals to: AUSTRALIAN CRanioFACIAL UNIT
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