Class III Treatment Strategies

Skeletal Class III is long regarded as one of the most severe craniofacial deformities whose treatment is too often surgical.

It has been proposed that the probable cause of this malocclusion would be the excessive growth of the mandible. However, longitudinal studies do not support this theory showing identical incremental changes in the maxilla and mandible compared with individuals of class I. Even today, the etiology of this malocclusion remains controversial making it difficult to establish consensus treatment protocols.

This conference will address the problem of class III malocclusion in Homo sapiens. Its’ etiology will be presented in the evolutionary context of the craniofacial complex, highlighting the importance of concepts such as posterior discrepancy and craniomandibular adaptation to occlusal function. Interdisciplinary treatment strategies will be discussed through the presentation of clinical cases, demonstrating the importance of controlling the vertical dimension and posterior occlusal plane inclination in the treatment of Class III simultaneously allowing a reduction in the need for orthognathic surgery and unnecessary dental extractions which require longer treatment times and complicated mechanics.

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