

**Assessment of the Oral Health Condition in a
Group of Egyptian Children with Cleft Lip and/or
Palate**

Thesis

Submitted to the faculty of Dentistry,

Ain Shams University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

Master Degree in pediatric dentistry

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2010

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

{قالوا سبحانك لا علم لنا إلا
ما علمتنا انك أنت العليم الحكيم}

صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة {٣٢}

Acknowledgement

My deepest thanks go to **Dr. Ahmed Kamal Omran** Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University for his selection of the point of research and his professional guidance throughout the course of the research.

I wish to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to **Dr. Noha Samir Kabil** Lecturer of Pediatric Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University for her great efforts, scientific advice, enormous assistance in accomplishing this research and for her valuable time.

No words will convey my thanks to **Dr. Marwa Abd El-Wahhab El-kassaby** Lecturer of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University for her generous and fruitful assistance, her continuous support and guidance during the course of this research.

I would like to express my extreme thanks to **Dr. Nadia Ezz El-Din Metwali** Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Ain Shams University for her support, continuous encouragement and concern.

I am especially thankful to **Dr. Khalid Keraa** who generously offered his time and experience in conducting the statistics and data analysis of this work.

My due thanks to the children participating in this study and their parents for their cooperation and trust.

Ola Abd El-Geleel

This research is dedicated to.....

Mom and Dad, "it's impossible to thank you adequately for everything you've done, from loving me unconditionally to placing me your first priority, I really could not have asked for better parents"

My brother, "I wish you the best of this life"

My fiancé, "I couldn't have been any happier, if it wasn't for you"

Thank you for your support.....

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Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to give an overview on the oral health status of a group of Egyptian children with cleft lip and/or palate deformities, with emphasis on their:

- Caries experience
- Gingival health
- Oral hygiene
- Dental anomalies that can be detected clinically as missing teeth, supernumerary teeth and enamel defects
- Dietary habits
- Prevalent Breathing patterns
- Dental history including previous dental care, intra oral appliances and oral habits.

Introduction

Cleft lip with or without cleft palate anomalies are the fourth most common congenital birth defects, and are considered a major public health problem affecting 1 in every 500 to 1000 births worldwide. ^(1, 2, 3)

People who have a cleft lip and/or palate experience cosmetic, speech, hearing, and dental problems, these problems are complex and therefore best managed through a team of experts, there is more than one school of thought concerning how and when to intervene in the correction of CL/CP, but planning should commence soon after birth because early management is essential. ⁽⁴⁾

There are no simple solutions for approaching the countless problems associated with the cleft deformity, and the multidisciplinary approach to their management has become more prevalent in recent years and is now the accepted approach, through the team approach, professionals from various fields convene to assess the needs of the child and to assist the parents in dealing with the situation. Significant goals of the team include maximizing esthetic results and also facilitating the development of the orofacial complex. ⁽⁴⁾

Unfortunately, we lack accurate knowledge regarding the oral health condition of the Cleft Lip and/or Palate patients in Egypt. Since the dentist plays a major role in the care of these patients, as an effective contributor to the team, the dental professional must be technically and scientifically prepared to offer the most proper diagnosis and treatment as well as to provide information to the parents of children with clefts on the possible disturbances that may affect their children's dentition.⁽⁵⁾

The dentist has also to provide for the highest of standards of oral care to maintain intact primary and permanent dentitions that will permit optimal orthodontic and surgical treatment, maximizing long-term results of the comprehensive treatment.⁽⁶⁾ Despite the fact that the dental rehabilitation of cleft lip and palate has been a challenging and important step in craniofacial rehabilitation centers, good planning is a fundamental aspect for treatment success.⁽⁷⁾