



Misaligned Jaws and General Risks Associated with Orthognathic Surgery

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Your jaw has two parts, including the upper jaw (maxilla) and lower jaw (mandible). Occasionally, children develop misaligned jaws, which can result in crooked teeth and a bad bite.

Orthognathic surgery, also called corrective jaw surgery, may be necessary if a child's jaws are severely disarranged. Also, children who need surgery frequently receive orthodontic treatment (similar as braces and headgear) before and after surgery.

When the dental specialist identifies a patient as a candidate for orthognathic surgery, a total photographic examination is initially undertaken. This includes pan or x-rays, cephalometry x-rays, models, impressions, and radiographs. Your oral & maxillofacial surgeon, your orthodontist and your dentist will work together and consider how the corrective surgery will impact both proper jaw function and the aesthetic appearance of the entire face.

Generally, orthodontic braces are necessary to align the arches and straighten the teeth proceeding to the surgery, and besides, retainers may be used after the surgery. During maxillary surgery, the upper jaw is moved and may be secured in position utilizing tiny plates, wires, rubber bands and screws. Surgery on the mandible is performed utilizing bone grafts to align the lower jaw into the correct position. Orthognathic surgery for the most part requires a general anaesthesia and a good deal of aftercare. Pain medication will be specified as necessary, and you'll be given post treatment advice for your recovery. You may also be provided with a modified diet (if needed).

People who profit from orthognathic surgery include those who have an uneven bite due to misaligned teeth and/ or jaws. Development of the jaws and facial structure is a slow and gradual process. During this long process, the upper and lower jaws may grow at different rates and potentially cause a myriad of problems. Misalignment of the jaws

can hinder patients from appropriately chewing their food, obstruct their speech, and influence their breathing. A significant asymmetry of the jaws can also lead to other emotional and health issues.

General Risks of Surgery

Side effects of general anaesthesia

Taking after a general anaesthetic, you'll encounter difficulty swallowing, a dry sore throat and generalised muscle pain. These side effects generally resolve by the following day. You may witness nausea and vomiting after waking from a general anaesthetic and for one to two days afterwards. However, you'll be specified a medication to help settle the vomiting, if necessary. Although rare, the risks of general anaesthesia can include bronchitis, pneumonia, a coarse voice, heart attack, stroke and death. Elderly patients and patients with existing heart disease may be at a greater threat of heart attack.

Infection

All surgery carries the threat of infection, particularly in patients with diabetes. The threat is low following orthognathic surgery, although infection may develop around plates and screws. Antibiotics are usually prescribed at the time of surgery to prevent the threat of infection. However, the symptoms generally appear at 10 to 14 days following surgery with increased pain, swelling and a bad tasting discharge in the mouth, if infection does occur. However, contact your surgeon immediately, if infection or bleeding does occur. In rare instances, the oral incision may require to be opened, cleaned and re-stitched.

Scarring

The majority of incisions in the mouth heal well and quickly. In some people however, healing may progress slowly, generally because they're aged.

Inflammation of veins

Veins that are used for intravenous fluids and medications may become inflamed, with swelling, discolouration and restriction of arm or hand movement for some time.

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