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One-year stability of the mandibular advancement and counterclockwise rotation for correction of the skeletal class II malocclusion and high mandibular plane angle: Dental and skeletal aspect



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ABSTRACT

Background: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the stability on dental and skeletal aspect after surgical advancement and counterclockwise rotation for the correction of the mandibular deficiency in patients with high mandibular plane angle (MPA).

Methods: We analyzed the records of patients who had undergone surgical treatment for dentofacial deformities with mandibular deficiency and high MPA. Clinical and radiological data were taken 1 month before surgery (T0), 6 weeks after surgery (T1) and 1 year after surgery (T2). Cephalometric values of the MPA were recorded and compared. The cephalometric changes in the different time periods were defined as follows: A: postsurgical changes (T0–T1), B: one-year changes (T1–T2), and C: short term changes (T0–T2).

Results: Twenty-seven patients had prominent mandibular deficiency with an MPA of over 35° (high angle). The mean age of patients at surgery was 29.7 years. Seven patients had a single jaw procedure, 20 patients had bilateral sagittal split osteotomy (BSSO) combined with a Le Fort I osteotomy, and 14 patients had additional genioplasty. MPA values differed

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significantly between the time periods ($p < 0.05$) with an observed relapse of the angle. However, satisfactory clinical improvement was achieved in the dental and skeletal presentation. The overjet improvement was evident from 8.815 ± 2.085 mm (T0) to 3.426 ± 1.253 mm (T2).

Conclusion: Counterclockwise surgical advancement of the mandible to correct mandibular deficiency in patients with a high mandibular plane angle showed an overall acceptable stability during one-year follow-up.

At a glance commentary

Scientific background on the subject

This study evaluated a group of patients with class II malocclusion and mandibular deficiency presenting with high mandibular plane angle. Orthognathic surgery using mandibular advancement and counterclockwise rotation was performed. Postoperative stability was adequate and the results were good after one year assessment.

What this study adds to the field

Dentofacial deformity with prominent overjet, class II malocclusion and high mandibular plane angle is considered difficult to correct. However, adequate orthognathic surgical technique with mandibular advancement, counterclockwise rotation, and appropriate fixation could achieve good outcome. Relapse of the angle was observed, but clinical improvement was accomplished.

A facial morphology with a mandibular deficiency is one of the common types of dentofacial deformities requiring orthognathic surgery in Caucasian population, such as in the Netherlands [1–4]. In orthodontic literature this deformity is classified as class II which consists of two highly different deformities namely the low angle short face type and the high mandibular plane angle (MPA) type [5]. These two types of deformity differ with regard not only to facial appearance, but also to facial behavior after surgical orthodontic treatment [1,5,6]. Mandibular advancement surgery in convergent, deep-bite cases results in a clockwise movement of the jaw that increases the anterior facial height. In contrast, mandibular advancement surgery in the divergent type with a tendency to an open bite leads to a counterclockwise rotation that closes the open bite and reduces the anterior facial height [1,5,6].

One of the main challenges in orthognathic surgery especially in class II cases is the stability after large advancement with counterclockwise rotation [7]. Nowadays, there is still considerable debate on the effects of counterclockwise rotation of the mandible. Moreover, it is still controversial whether this procedure is a clinically stable procedure [8]. Many

authors consider that although it may be desirable to rotate the MPA counterclockwise to alter the facial height and obtain a better esthetic result, this movement is both unstable and unpredictable [9–13]. Numerous publications support the view that skeletal responses vary in high-angle and low-angle class II patients, with the high-angle MPA patients having a higher frequency, greater magnitude and more continuous pattern of relapse [2,13,14]. While various studies have reported a positive association between high MPA and condylar resorption as a cause of late relapse [3,4,15,16], others have claimed that the advancement surgery does lead to stable results if proper account is taken of the necessary precautions regarding temporomandibular joint (TMJ) repair, joint medication, and muscle-relaxing techniques or medication [17–20]. This study was performed to investigate the skeletal and dental stability after the mandibular advancement surgery in patients with high MPA.

Materials and methods

This study involved patients who had pre- and postoperative orthodontic and orthognathic treatment at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Oral Pathology at VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Surgical advancement was accomplished in all patients by means of bilateral sagittal split osteotomy (BSSO) with the modification according to Hunsuck, with or without a Le Fort I osteotomy or genioplasty. All surgical procedures had been performed by a single surgeon (DBT) at the same hospital. Only patients with prominent mandibular deficiency and a high MPA ($>35^\circ$) were included. Patients with syndromes, cleft lip and/or palate, or post traumatic conditions were excluded. Data collection and analyses were achieved through the collaborative forces.

Data collection

The retrospective database at the department included all patients who underwent orthognathic surgical treatment for maxillofacial deformities. The following information were reviewed: age, gender, age at the time of surgery, type of deformity, type of surgery, and cephalometric analysis during the various follow-up periods. Patients were contacted and agreed to participate in the present study. Permission for this study was given by the Ethical Committee at VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands and in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

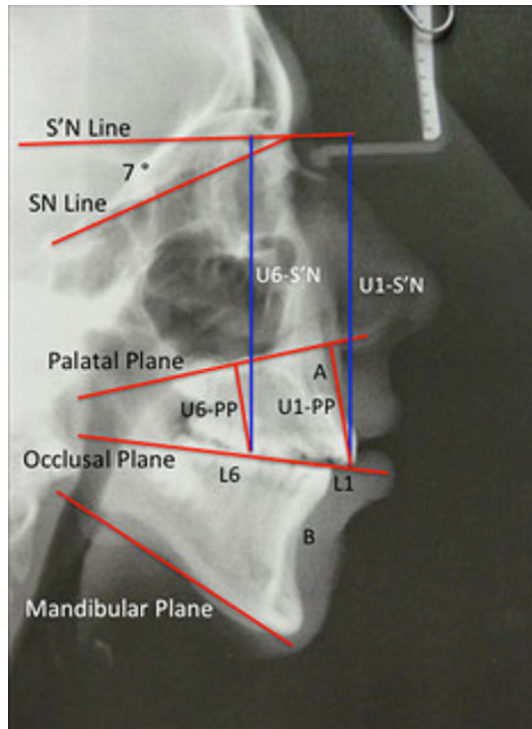


Fig. 1 Skeletal landmarks, and the reference lines and planes used in the cephalometric analysis.

Cephalometric analysis

The lateral cephalometric radiographs were taken using a standard radiographic technique by centric relation, with the Frankfort horizontal plane parallel to the floor. The evaluation and follow-up periods were as follows: T0, 1 month before the jaw surgery; T1, 6 weeks postoperatively; and T2, 1 year postoperatively. The cephalometric changes in different time periods were defined as follows: A: early postsurgical changes (T0–T1), B: one-year changes (T1–T2), C: short term changes (T0–T2).

In this study, all standard lateral cephalometric were hand-traced on acetate paper by the same examiner (MR). A horizontal reference line (S'N) was constructed using a line through the Nasion rotated 7° from the Sella-Nasion (SN) line. The maxillary landmarks were the A point, the Anterior Nasal Spine (ANS), the Posterior Nasal Spine (PNS), the incisal edge of the maxillary central incisor (U1), and the mesiobuccal cusp tip of the maxillary first molar (U6). The Mandibular landmarks were the B point, the Menton (Me), the Gonion (Go), the incisal edge of the mandibular central incisor (L1), and the mesiobuccal cusp tip of the mandibular first molar (L6). The following lines or planes were used: the horizontal reference line (S'N), the Sella-Nasion line, the Palatal Plane (PP) (i.e., ANS–PNS), the Occlusal Plane (OP) (i.e., L1–L6), and the Mandibular Plane (MP) (i.e., Me–Go). Horizontal maxillary movements were assessed using the angular variables SN–A and SN–PP. Vertical maxillary movements were measured using the linear variables U1–S'N and U6–S'N. Vertical dental movements were measured using the linear variables U1–PP and U6–PP. The mandible was assessed using the angular variables SN–B, PP–OP, PP–MP, OP–MP and the MPA i.e., SN–MP (Fig. 1). The overjet is the distance between two lines drawn from U1 and L1 perpendicular to S'N. The overbite is the distance between two lines drawn from U1 and L1 parallel to S'N [4].

Surgical approach

Le Fort I osteotomy involves down-fracture, trimming and repositioning of the maxilla to obtain the desired position. Rigid fixation of the maxilla was then achieved using either four titanium mini-plates (Straight and L type, KLS Martin, Germany) in the lateral and anterior regions, or two titanium mini-plates in the anterior regions and two wires in the posterior regions [21].

The BSSO in the original procedures was performed bilaterally. The split osteotomy was made in the region of the first or second molar. The teeth were placed in their planned

Table 1 Means and standard deviations 1 month preoperatively (T0); 6 weeks post-operatively (T1); and 1 year post operatively (T2).

Parameter	T0		T1		T2		p-value
	N	(Mean ± SD)	N	(Mean ± SD)	N	(Mean ± SD)	
SNA (°)	27	(80.574 ± 4.351)	27	(83.389 ± 4.669)	27	(82.389 ± 4.882)	0.084 ^a
SN–PP (°)	27	(5.296 ± 2.856)	27	(7.704 ± 4.098)	27	(7.574 ± 3.817)	0.018 ^a
1–S'N (mm)	27	(82.667 ± 4.357)	27	(82.037 ± 3.637)	27	(81.667 ± 4.940)	0.254 ^b
6–S'N (mm)	27	(76.778 ± 4.041)	27	(75.167 ± 3.716)	27	(72.982 ± 4.584)	0.363 ^a
1–PP (mm)	27	(32.296 ± 3.826)	27	(31.796 ± 3.271)	27	(32.148 ± 3.019)	0.857 ^a
6–PP (mm)	27	(25.037 ± 2.714)	27	(25.667 ± 2.780)	27	(25.907 ± 2.531)	0.471 ^a
SNB (°)	27	(74.519 ± 4.902)	27	(78.111 ± 4.302)	27	(76.981 ± 4.558)	0.017 ^a
PP–OP (°)	27	(10.982 ± 4.307)	27	(10.204 ± 3.704)	27	(10.074 ± 4.615)	0.696 ^a
PP–MP (°)	27	(32.778 ± 4.978)	27	(28.889 ± 5.586)	27	(31.093 ± 5.639)	0.035 ^a
OP–MP (°)	27	(21.889 ± 5.462)	27	(18.963 ± 5.709)	27	(20.648 ± 4.938)	0.141 ^a
SN–MP (°)	27	(39.444 ± 3.451)	27	(36.907 ± 4.513)	27	(38.519 ± 5.081)	0.534 ^a
Overjet (mm)	27	(8.815 ± 2.085)	27	(2.074 ± 1.466)	27	(3.426 ± 1.253)	0.000 ^b
Overbite (mm)	27	(2.704 ± 1.958)	27	(1.574 ± 1.044)	27	(1.537 ± 0.843)	0.003 ^b

^a Repeated measures ANOVA.

^b Friedman test.

positions using surgical splints. Each condyle was flexibly placed in the glenoid fossa and the ramal segments were fixed with titanium mini-plates that were applied intraorally on each side using four monocortical titanium screws. Each screw was 2 mm in diameter and 5 mm in length. Intermaxillary fixation (IMF) was maintained with a rubber elastic for an average of 14 days [21].

Genioplasty was usually performed in combination with the orthognathic surgery. The incision was made between the first and second pre-molars just below the mucogingival junction, and was extended through the periosteum. The line of the bone incision was marked using a fine fissure bur, and the osteotomy was continued with a saw. The segment was mobilized and fixed with the wire osteosynthesis [21].

Statistical method

Before doing further statistical analysis, we run the distribution test using Kolmogorov smirnov for the variants in all groups. The statistical analysis conducted for normally distributed data was repeated measures ANOVA, while for not normally distributed data using Friedman test. Both analyses are used to evaluate value changes T0, T1, and T2. *p* values less than 0.05 (alpha 5%) were considered significant. The Wilcoxon test (for not normally distributed data) and Bonferroni test (for normally distributed data) were used to determine difference in time periods for A: postsurgical changes (T0–T1), B: one-year changes (T1–T2), and C: short term change (T0–T2). All data were transferred to SPSS version 22 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA).

Results

The study included 27 patients (26 females and 1 male). All patients had a mandibular deficiency with an MPA higher than 35°. The mean age at the time of surgery was 29.7 ± 8.9 (range 18–45 years). Seven cases were treated with a single jaw BSSO. In 20 cases surgical advancement of the mandible had been combined with a Le Fort I osteotomy; and in 14 cases, it had been combined with a genioplasty. In 20 patients, rigid screw fixation was used by 3 bicortical positioning screws (2 mm) at the upper border of the mandible without IMF. Seven patients had combined 2 titanium mini-plates in the anterior regions and stainless steel wire fixation in the posterior regions.

Table 1 presents the means and standard deviations of each variable measured in three timings at T0, T1, and T2. The mean $\pm$ the standard deviation for the follow up time on each T0, T1 and T2 are 37.97 ± 29.49 ; 37.21 ± 30.65 ; and 37.63 ± 30.25 , respectively. Patients in this group showed characteristics of class II malocclusion with severe overjet (8.815 ± 2.085 mm) and high MPA (SN–MP: $38.519 \pm 4.505^\circ$). The cephalometric changes in these patients revealed a statistically significant difference in dental and skeletal aspects during the follow-up times ($p < 0.05$). Majority of patients demonstrated to have the counterclockwise rotation during the orthognathic surgery by the early postoperative SN–MP angle ($37.037 \pm 4.534^\circ$) six weeks after the operation. The

Table 2 Mean difference of time periods: A: postsurgical change, B: one-year change, and C: short term change.

Parameter	T0–T1				T1–T2				T0–T2			
	Mean difference	95% confidence interval		p-value	Mean difference	95% confidence interval		p-value	Mean difference	95% confidence interval		p-value
		Lower bound	Upper bound			Lower bound	Upper bound			Lower bound	Upper bound	
SNA ($^\circ$)	–2.815	–5.904	0.274	0.086 ^a	1.000	–2.089	4.089	1.000 ^a	–1.815	–4.904	1.274	0.464 ^a
SN–PP ($^\circ$)	–2.574	–4.937	–0.211	0.028 ^a	0.296	–2.067	2.659	1.000 ^a	–2.278	–4.641	0.085	0.063 ^a
1–S'N (mm)	0.630	–2.263	3.522	1.000 ^b	0.370	–2.522	3.263	1.000 ^a	1.000	–1.893	3.893	1.000 ^b
6–S'N (mm)	1.611	–1.139	4.361	0.467 ^a	–0.815	–3.565	1.935	1.000 ^a	0.796	–1.953	3.546	1.000 ^a
1–PP (mm)	0.500	–1.757	2.757	1.000 ^a	–0.352	–2.608	1.905	1.000 ^a	0.148	–2.108	2.405	1.000 ^a
6–PP (mm)	–0.630	–2.412	1.153	1.000 ^a	–0.241	–2.023	1.542	1.000 ^a	–0.870	–2.653	0.912	0.708 ^a
SNB ($^\circ$)	–3.593	–6.652	–0.533	0.016 ^a	1.130	–1.930	4.189	1.000 ^a	–2.463	–5.522	0.596	0.157 ^a
PP–OP ($^\circ$)	0.778	–2.036	3.592	1.000 ^a	0.130	–2.684	2.944	1.000 ^a	0.907	–1.906	3.721	1.000 ^a
PP–MP ($^\circ$)	3.889	0.287	7.491	0.030 ^a	–2.204	–5.806	1.398	0.415 ^a	1.685	–1.917	5.287	0.768 ^a
OP–MP ($^\circ$)	2.926	–0.656	6.508	0.147 ^a	–1.685	–5.267	1.897	0.760 ^a	1.241	–2.341	4.823	1.000 ^a
SN–MP ($^\circ$)	1.482	–1.901	4.864	0.862 ^a	–1.148	–4.531	2.235	1.000 ^a	0.333	–3.049	3.716	1.000 ^a
Overjet (mm)	6.741	5.649	7.833	0.000 ^b	–1.352	–2.444	–0.260	0.000 ^b	5.389	4.297	6.481	0.000 ^b
Overbite (mm)	1.296	0.420	2.173	0.001 ^b	–0.130	–1.006	0.747	0.398 ^b	1.167	0.290	2.043	0.001 ^b

^a Bonferroni test.

^b Wilcoxon test.

counterclockwise rotation of the mandible could also be validated by the reduction in angle between the palatal plane and mandibular plane (PP–MP: 28.889 ± 5.586) and between the occlusal plane and mandibular plane (OP–MP: 10.204 ± 3.704) after the orthognathic surgery. Relapse was noticed by the increase of the angles at one year post-operatively (PP–MP: 31.093 ± 5.640 , OP–MP: 20.648 ± 4.938). Both the SNA and SNB showed an increase after correction of the maxillofacial deformity (SNA: 83.389 ± 4.668 , SNB: 78.111 ± 4.302).

The treatment change of early postsurgical (A), one-year after treatment (B), and short term (C) is shown in Table 2. Most of the angular changes between T0 and T1 were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) showing the surgical movement for correction of the maxillofacial deformity. After one year (T1–T2), some of the changes could remain statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), but was minor in clinical consequence. The

overbite was maintained adequate without an appearance of open bite. The overjet was corrected and remained in the normal or acceptable range.

Figs. 2 and 3 show the individual values in the different time periods. Fig. 2 shows dentoskeletal changes of vertical dimension in the value of the 1-S'N and 6-S'N at follow-up times. Fig. 3 shows skeletal changes of the angular dimension in the value of the SN–PP, PP–MP, OP–MP, and SN–MP during follow-up times. Magnitude in the postoperative changes and the 1-year change (relapse) were demonstrated. The changes in the mandibular plane angle varied (Fig. 3D). The majority of them showed minimal changes in MPA between the T1 and T2 periods, but a wide difference was observed in sporadic cases.

Fig. 4 shows the dental changes in the value of the 1-PP, 6-PP, Overjet, and Overbite during follow-up times of 1 month preoperatively, 6 weeks postoperatively, and 1 year

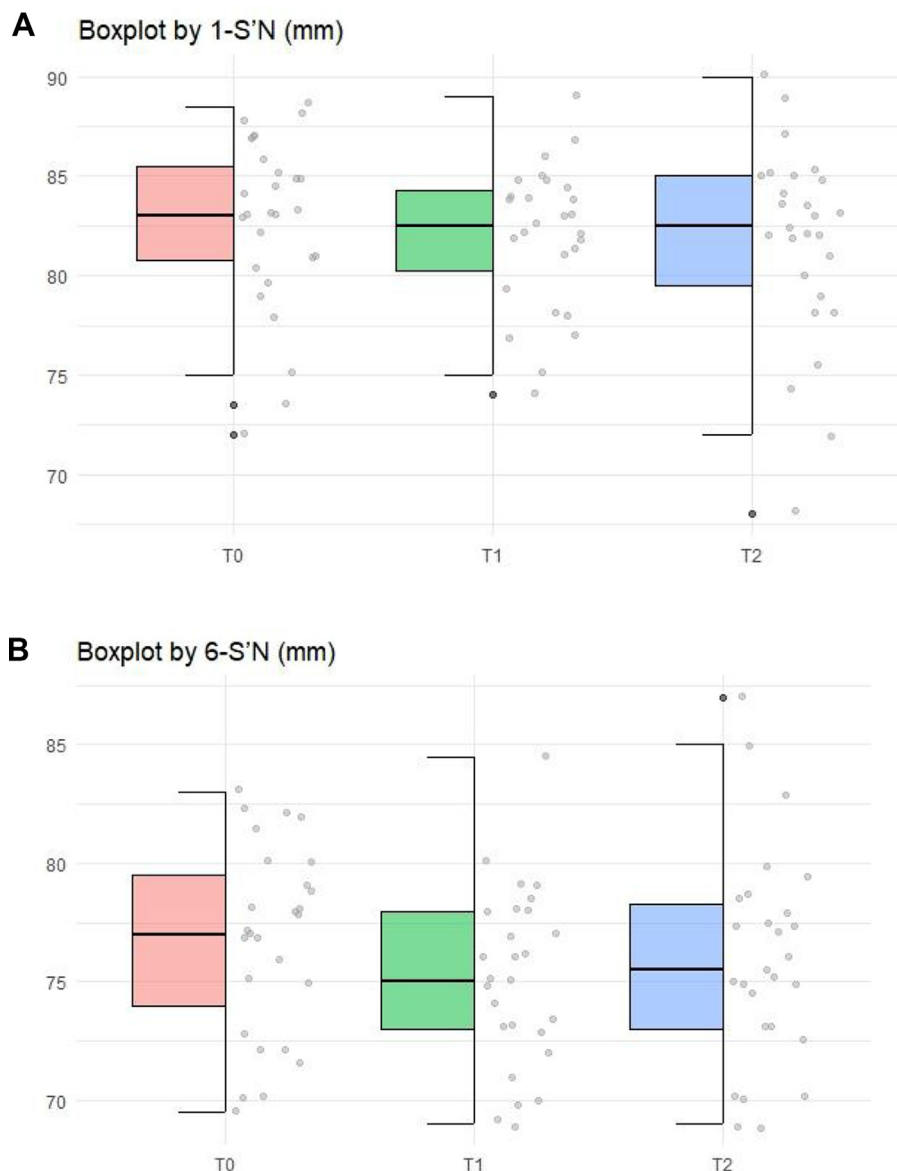


Fig. 2 Skeletal changes of vertical dimension in the value of the 1-S'N (A) and 6-S'N (B) at 3 follow-up times. (T0) 1 month preoperatively; (T1) 6 weeks postoperatively; and (T2) 1 year postoperatively.

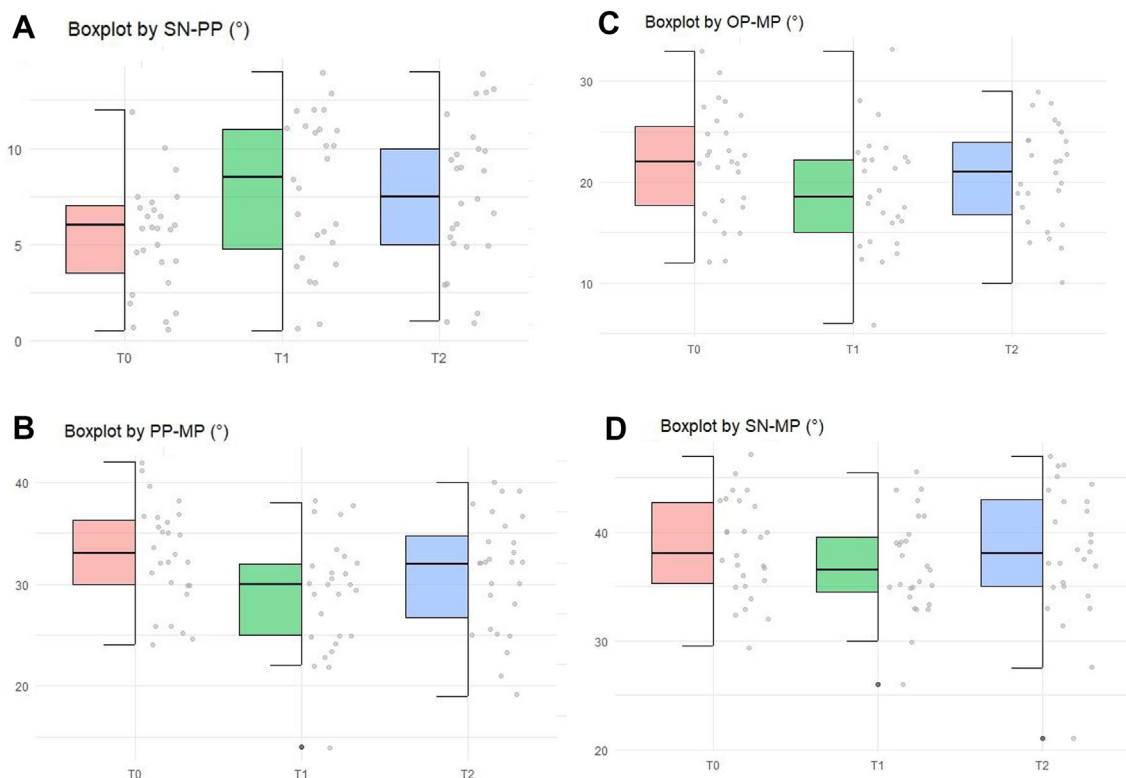


Fig. 3 Skeletal changes of angular dimension in the value of the SN–PP (A); PP–MP (B); OP–MP (C); SN–MP (D) during follow-up times: (T0) 1 month preoperatively; (T1) 6 weeks postoperatively; (T2) 1 year postoperatively.

postoperatively. No significant differences in the dental changes on 1-PP and 6-PP in both post-surgical and 1-year periods (Fig. 4A and B). Improvement was observed in both overbite and overjet after the surgery (Fig. 4C and D). Overall, the clinical outcome was satisfactory.

Discussion

Since the early years of orthognathic surgery, counterclockwise advancement of the mandible by a BSSO has not been considered to lead to stable results [1]. Initially, the instability was attributed to the fact of insecure fixation method, such as wires and intermaxillary fixation. It was thought that screw fixation would resolve the adverse effects of relapse. Arnett et al. [22] claimed stable results for rigid fixation, first with one plate, and more recently with two plates after mandibular advancement surgery [22]. As well as establishing good interdigitation, the use of long-term skeletal fixation is recommended. Medication is given to fight relapse caused by the unfavorable influence of muscles (Botox) and degeneration of the TMJ [17–19]. In a personal communication at the International Symposium on Orthognathic Surgery, Vienna, Austria 2010, Wolford LM. stated that muscles “do not play any role” in the occurrence of relapse, and that “fixing the condyles first” was the most important way of ensuring stable results after counterclockwise surgical movement of the mandible. In this study we found that although the occlusal stability was not always affected by the complete “return” of

the mandibular plane to the original position, the tendency was clearly observed.

The plausible causes of skeletal relapse from the BSSO procedure within 1 year may correlate indirectly to the surgery such as rotation of the ramus during surgery, the surgeons' experience, intersegmental movement, bone remodeling and remaining growth, density of bone, condylar displacement and condylar resorption [23–25]. According to previous systematic review and meta-analysis study, both horizontal and vertical stability of BSSO counterclockwise rotational advancement are significantly affected by the degree of rotation [8]. Supporting this study, another clinical research found out that magnitude of mandibular advancement is a stronger surgical predictor for horizontal relapse at the B point, especially when the degree of mandibular advancement exceeded 8.5 mm [26]. In the case with high mandibular plane angle, skeletal relapse is predictably related to both counterclockwise rotation and myoskeletal balance that can happen during advancement [27]. Conversely, some previously published studies found that both large and small counterclockwise rotational advancement do not affect the postsurgical stability of the mandible after BSSO procedure [14,28]. Indeed, they suggested that this technique is a clinically stable procedure which coincides with the results in our present study.

Besides the magnitude of rotation, one systematic review from biomechanical studies suggested that the fixation method for the proximal and distal segments of mandible is another factor influenced the skeletal stability [29]. This finding contradicts the data found in a meta-analysis reported

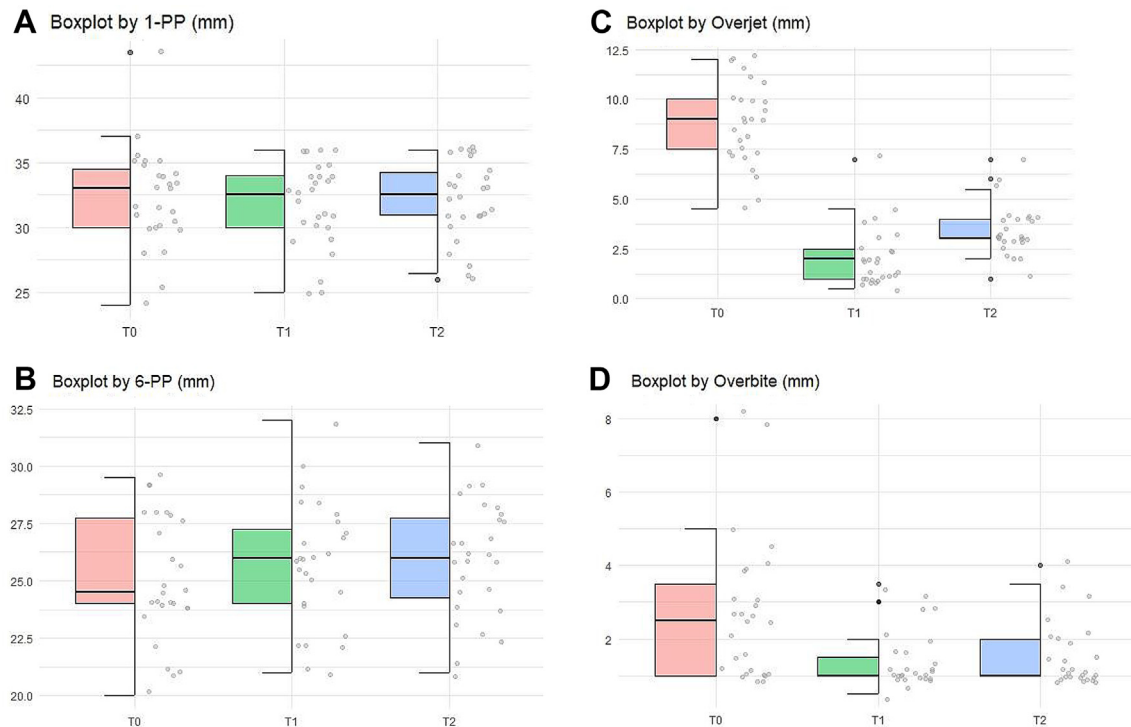


Fig. 4 Dental changes in the value of the 1-PP (A); 6-PP (B); Overjet (C); Overbite (D) at 3 follow-up times. (T0) 1 month preoperatively; (T1) 6 weeks postoperatively; and (T2) 1 year postoperatively.

that the method of fixation of the BSSO did not show statistical significant difference in skeletal stability following mandibular advancement surgery [30]. Underlining this result, based on the hierarchical scale of stability, the BSSO for mandibular counterclockwise rotation as well as BSSO with mandibular advancement are considered highly stable procedure regardless of the fixation method used [31]. However, both studies implied that the outcome of all preference methods highly depends on the surgeon experience [30,31].

It has been reported that surgical correction of the high MPA elongates the suprahyoid soft tissues and extends the pterygomasseteric sling, causing posterior and inferior displacement of the distal segment of the mandible [1,10,12,32]. During follow-up time in 1 year, we found out that the MPA value was not much different from the preoperative MPA. This is consistent with the Eggersperger study [14], which was based on 12 years of follow up and reported on the high-angle group. In its study, 70% of the total skeletal relapse occurred between 1 and 12 years postoperatively, contrasting with the process of skeletal relapse in the low-angle group, which stopped after the first year of observation [14]. It has been reported that the counterclockwise rotation of the distal segment extends the pterygomasseteric sling posteriorly and elongates the suprahyoid musculature anteriorly, which can affect the mandibular stability [10]. Proffit et al. suggested that excellent stability required good neuromuscular adaptation [11]. However, we supposed that neuromuscular adaptation did not fully function after the counterclockwise repositioning of the mandible, because the

gonial angle moved downwards and the chin rotated upwards, preventing compensatory repositioning of muscles and other stretched soft tissues.

Our findings suggested that, moving the distal segment upward and forward constituted an unstable mandibular movement. Interestingly, measurements on the MPA did not show difference in relapse between patients who had undergone single or double jaw osteotomies with a high MPA. This implied that patients with high mandibular plane angles are more likely remodeled to the initial value of the MPA. Whether the fixation methods with peri-surgical soft tissue management could improve the MPA would require further randomized control studies. However, the final outcome was satisfactory in this study with regard to the occlusion and facial aesthetics.

The main shortcoming of our study is its design as retrospective in nature. It is not possible to estimate the influence of any information bias resulting from this study. An immediate postoperative X-ray would better delineate the surgical effect, rather than the 6 weeks after the surgery. Certain skeletal movement or relapse could have occurred during the 6 weeks period. A second shortcoming is that the study included patients who had undergone single or double jaw surgery with different fixation modalities. The results need to be interpreted with care. But despite these shortcomings, our results demonstrate that these patients have an acceptable outcome from the procedure. More studies concerning these issues in patients with a high MPA would be required.

Conclusion

Counterclockwise surgical advancement of the mandible to correct a prominent mandibular deficiency in patients with a high mandibular plane angle showed acceptable results during a 1-year follow-up. Although there was certain relapse in the mandibular plane angle during the follow-up, the issue did not negatively influence the clinical outcome.

Conflicts of interest

No conflicting relationship exists for all authors.

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