

Comparison Of Cephalometric Analysis In Children With And Without Tongue Thrust Habit In Population Of Jammu

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Abstract

Introduction: The study was undertaken to compare cephalometric analysis in children with and without tongue thrusting habit and to evaluate the risk factors associated with the skeletal changes due to the tongue thrusting habit.

Method: A total of 21 children with a habit of tongue thrusting and 21 children without any habit between ages 6-14years were selected for the study

Results: Tongue thrust affected only upper incisors by proclining them, but there was no effect on the lower incisors. Hyperactive mentalis muscle in present study was reported to be 24%. 86% subjects presented a relationship between tongue thrust and lisping.

Conclusion: Tongue thrust caused proclination of maxillary incisors. Tongue thrust did not cause significant

skeletal changes in the maxilla and mandible or dental changes in the mandibular teeth. Children with tongue thrust showed increased upper lip thickness although it was not clear if it was a cause or an effect. Tongue thrusting showed a significant familial trend.

Keywords: Tongue thrust, cephalometric, habit

Introduction

The morphology of the craniofacial complex, the dynamics of the stomatognathic system & the arrangement of the dentition is an integrated functioning unit. Muscles are potent force, whether they are in active function or at rest. The teeth & supporting structure are constantly under the influence of the contiguous musculature. Tongue is the most agile, versatile appendage in the body. It is the largest organ of the oral cavity and has no skeletal bony base. Peat¹ emphasized that the forward movement of the

tongue tip between the teeth to meet the lower lip in deglutition and in sounds of speech so that the tongue becomes interdental. Rakosi² cleared the role of tongue in positioning the dentoalveolar structures and proposed that the growth, posture, and function of tongue are important. Abnormalities of either posture or function could possibly contribute to development of malocclusion and speech defects.^{3,4}

In 1969 Hanson⁵ et al. reported prevalence of 39% in the preschool children for saliva swallowing, 55% for liquid swallowing, and 68% for solid swallowing. Similar prevalence rates were found by Bell and Hale⁶ (1963) in a comparable population. In the epidemiological study of 1500 eleven year old children, only 40 (2.7%) of the sample exhibited tongue thrusting and of those only half (20 subjects) had malocclusion (Tulley⁷, 1969). Gellin⁸ (1978) studied the prevalence of tongue thrusting in American children. He reported that 97% of the newborns had tongue thrust and this figure declined to 80% at 5-6 years and then to 3% at 12 years of age. He concluded that tongue thrusting significantly decreased with age. Fletcher et al⁹ (1961) reported that 50% of the 6 year-old children exhibited tongue thrust swallow and percentage declined to about 25% at age 15 years. Similar findings has been reported by Ward et al¹⁰ (1961) and Jann¹¹ (1964). The aim of the present study was to compare cephalometric analysis in children with and without tongue thrusting habit and to evaluate the risk factors associated with the skeletal changes due to the tongue thrusting habit.

Material and Method

Source of Data: A total of 21 children with tongue thrusting habit and 21 children without any habit between ages 6-14 years were selected for the study.

Criteria used to select the children

- Children residing in the Jammu city

- Absence of systemic diseases
- No previous history of any orthodontic treatment.
- No history of trauma or surgery in the dentofacial region
- Absence of any other oral habits like finger sucking, lip sucking, etc at the time of selection
- Absence of premature loss of deciduous teeth

Selection of Subjects

Child was diagnosed as a tongue thruster by using following criteria established by Weiss and Van Houten (1972):

1. He/she thrust his/her tongue against the upper central incisors or between the upper and lower central incisors during swallowing.
2. Swallowed with his/her teeth apart, and/or
3. Had excessive lower lip activity during swallowing.

A total of 21 children were selected who exhibited tongue-thrusting habit and were assigned to the Group TT (Tongue Thrusting).

A total of 21 children were selected who did not exhibit tongue-thrusting habit as controls and were assigned to the Group C (Control).

Clinical Examination

- Competency of lips
- Lateral profile
- Mouth breathing
- Hyper-activity of mentalis muscle
- Position of the tongue-tip during swallow
- Indentations on tongue
- Lipping during speech were also recorded.

Study Models

- Open bite
- Overjet
- Overbite
- Molar relation
- Canine relation

- Inter-premolar palatine width 0
- Inter-molar palatine width.

Cephalometric Analysis

- Relationship of the maxilla to the cranial base
- Relationship of the mandible to the cranial base
- Maxillo-mandibular relations
- Vertical height
- Maxillary and mandibular incisor position
- Growth pattern
- Soft tissue

Statistical Analysis

- Unpaired student's t-test and Mann-Whitney test were used to compare the cephalometric analyses between the two groups.
- Chi-square test was used for categorical data to evaluate the risk factors between the two groups.
- Chi-square test and unpaired student's t-test were used to analyze the effects of tongue thrusting across the groups.

Result

A total of 21 children were selected who exhibited tongue-thrusting habit and were assigned to the Group TT (Tongue Thrusting). Out of 21 subjects 10 male and 11 female subjects were there mean age \pm SD (Years) 10.6 ± 0.9 . A total of 21 children were selected who did not exhibit tongue-thrusting habit as controls and were assigned to the Group C (Control). 17 male and 4 female subjects were there in this study, mean age \pm SD (Years) 11.0 ± 1.0 . on application of test of significance p-value was 0.18 which was not significant (Table 1). Table 2 compares the maxilla to cranial base and mandible to cranial base across the groups. Whereas Table 3 compares the maxillo-mandibular relationship and vertical height across the groups. Maxillary and mandibular incisor position and growth pattern were compared across the groups in Table 4. Table 5 detailed about comparison of soft tissue analysis across the groups. Table 6 proved that the tongue thrust had a highly significant effect on incompetency of lips, mouth breathing habit, hyper activity of mentalis muscle, lisping, increased overjet and open bite.

Table 1: Distribution of Samples by Age and Sex

Groups	No. of subjects	SEX		Mean age \pm SD (Years)	Significance	
		Male	Female		t-value	p-value
Group TT	21	10	11	10.6 ± 0.9	1.36	0.18 NS
Group C	21	17	4	11.0 ± 1.0		

NS: Non-Significant

Table 2: Comparison of Maxilla to Cranial Base and Mandible to Cranial Base across the Groups.

Relationship Studied	Cephalometric Parameters	Group TT	Group C	Significance*	
		Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	t-value	p-value
Maxilla to cranial base	SNA deg	82.0 ± 3.8	81.3 ± 3.9	0.56	0.58
	N-A FH deg	87.7 ± 2.9	88.3 ± 4.0	0.62	0.54
	A-N Vet mm	0.9 ± 3.9	1.4 ± 4.5	0.40	0.69
Mandible to cranial base	SNB deg	76.4 ± 3.5	77.9 ± 3.8	1.26	0.21
	Npog-FH deg	83.6 ± 3.7	84.2 ± 5.1	0.45	0.65
	Pog-Nvertm	10.1 ± 4.6	11.1 ± 6.1	0.60	0.55

Table 3: Comparison of maxillo-mandibular relationship and vertical height across the Groups.

Relationship Studied	Cephalometric Parameters	Group TT	Group C	Significance*	
		Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	t-value	p-value
Maxillo mandibular relations	ANB deg	4.5 \pm 2.0	4.2 \pm 1.7	0.58	0.56
	A-Npog mm	0.2 \pm 4.1	-1.8 \pm 4.2	1.59	0.12
	Wits mm	2.3 \pm 3.2	1.0 \pm 1.8	1.67	0.10
Vertical Height	SN-MP deg	32.7 \pm 5.3	32.3 \pm 5.1	0.21	0.84
	FMPA deg	25.9 \pm 5.8	27.0 \pm 4.3	0.75	0.46
	Ant. Facial height (mm)	109.0 \pm 8.0	107.7 \pm 6.4	0.60	0.55
	Posterior facial height (mm)	69.8 \pm 6.6	71.5 \pm 2.5	0.62	0.54
	Jarabak's ratio (%)	64.9 \pm 3.9	65.8 \pm 3.1	0.87	0.39

Table 4: Comparison of Maxillary and Mandibular Incisor Position and Growth Pattern across the Groups.

Relationship Studied	Cephalometric Parameters	Group TT	Group C	Significance*	
		Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	t-value	p-value
Maxillary & mandibular incisor position	U1-SN deg	117.4 \pm 9.6	106.4 \pm 6.5	4.34	<0.001**
	U1-NA deg	35.9 \pm 9.1	26.1 \pm 4.1	4.46	<0.001**
	U1-NA mm	7.6 \pm 3.2	5.1 \pm 1.5	3.27	0.002*
	IMPA deg	104.0 \pm 9.1	100.9 \pm 8.0	1.15	0.26
	L1-NB mm	7.1 \pm 2.1	6.1 \pm 2.9	1.34	0.19
	L1-NB deg	35.1 \pm 4.9	30.9 \pm 8.3	2.04	0.10
	U1-L1 deg	105.2 \pm 11	120.2 \pm 13	4.03	<0.001**
Growth pattern	Saddle angle	126.3 \pm 4.4	126.0 \pm 4.1	0.26	0.80
	Articulare angle	140.0 \pm 8.9	138.9 \pm 4.7	0.54	0.59
	Gonial angle	123.8 \pm 5.3	126.9 \pm 5.3	1.89	0.07
	Sum	390.2 \pm 9.0	391.9 \pm 6.5	0.69	0.49
	Y-axis	64.9 \pm 5.3	66.0 \pm 4.0	0.72	0.48
	Basal angle	25.9 \pm 5.4	25.6 \pm 5.4	0.20	0.84

** Highly significant, * Significant

Table 5: Comparison of soft tissue analysis across the groups.

Relationship Studied	Cephalometric Parameters	Group TT	Group C	Significance*	
		Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	t-value	p-value
Soft tissue analysis	Facial angle	87.4 \pm 3.2	87.5 \pm 3.2	0.10	0.92
	Nasolabial angle	90.6 \pm 17.2	90.4 \pm 14.4	0.03	0.98
	H-line angle	22.1 \pm 3.8	22.0 \pm 4.8	0.04	0.97
	Upper sulcus depth	5.5 \pm 3.2	5.3 \pm 2.7	0.21	0.83
	Upper lip thickness	14.9 \pm 3.1	13.4 \pm 1.8	1.92	<0.05*
	Upper lip strain	14.5 \pm 2.3	14.4 \pm 1.7	0.16	0.88
	Lower sulcus depth	4.3 \pm 1.8	4.4 \pm 1.5	0.28	0.78

* Significant

Table 6: Effects of Tongue Thrusting

Parameters	Group TT		Group C		Significance	
	No.	%	No.	%	χ^2	p-value
Lip						
Incompetent	18	85.7	3	14.3	21.4	<0.001**
Competent	3	14.3	18	85.7		
Lateral profile						
Straight	-	-	-	-	1.02	0.31
Convex	20	95.2	21	100.0		
Concave	1	4.8	-	-		
Mouth breathing						
Absent	13	61.9	21	100.0	9.88	<0.01*
Present	8	38.1	-	-		
Mentalis muscle						
Normal	16	76.2	21	100.0	5.68	<0.05*
Hyperactive	5	23.8	-	-		
Tip of the tongue touches						
Palatal region					31.5	<0.001**
Max. incisors	3	14.3	21	100.0		
Mand. incisors	1	4.8	-	-		
Both Max. & Mand. incisors	-	-	-	-		
	17	80.9	-	-		

Lisping						
Absent	3	14.3	21	100.0	31.5	<0.001**
Present	18	85.7	-	-		
Over bite						
0%	11	52.4	-	-		
25%	7	33.3	12	57.1	0.47	0.49
> 25%	3	14.3	9	42.9		
Overjet						
0 mm	11	52.4	-	-		
1 - 2 mm	2	9.5	19	90.4	18.14	<0.001**
2 – 4 mm	2	9.5	2	9.5		
> 4 mm	6	28.6	-	-		
Open bite						
Absent	10	47.6	21	100.0	14.9	<0.001**
Present	11	52.4	-	-		
Inter-premolar palatal width (Mean ± SD) mm	35.6 ± 1.9		35.9 ± 1.8		t=0.70	0.49
Inter-molar palatal width (Mean ± SD) mm	44.8 ± 2.8		45.0 ± 1.5		t=0.29	0.77

Discussion

Lateral Cephalometric Analysis

In present study some significant differences were observed in cephalometric analyses, which can be reasonably attributed to tongue thrusting habit. There are very few studies reported in the literature that have studied cephalometric changes caused by tongue thrust (Barber and Bonus¹², 1975; Cayley et al¹³, 2000). Results of present study indicated that tongue thrust affected only upper incisors by proclining them, but there was no effect on the lower incisors when compared to the controls in our sample. In present study mean SNA and SNB angles of the control group were comparable to those in the tongue thrust group reported by Barber and Bonus¹² (1975) and Cayley¹³ et al. (2000). This evidence may indicate trend towards bimaxillary protrusion in children included in

present study Table 7. Barber and Bonus¹² (1975) concluded from their study that children who exhibited tongue thrust pattern had more incompetent lips than the non-tongue thrusting children. Similarly Tulley⁷ (1969) reported that incompetent lips were associated with tongue thrust. Our findings are concurrent with the findings of Swinehart¹⁴ (1942) and Straub¹⁵ (1960). They concluded from their study that tongue thrusting was the primary cause of open bite. Hyperactive mentalis muscle in present study was reported to be 24% while Hanson et al. (1969)⁵ reported that mentalis muscle contractions were not related to presence of tongue thrusting in 5-year-old children in their study. In present study 86% subjects presented a relationship between tongue thrust and Lisping similarly, Subtelny et al¹⁶ (1964) reported that incidence of lisping was twice as high among the tongue

thrusters as it was among the non-thrusters. Inter-premolar and inter-molar palatal widths no association, Brauer and Holt¹⁷ (1965) reported from their study that high and/or narrow maxillary arch was associated with tongue thrust

swallow. Similar association has been reported by Straub¹⁵ (1960), Palmer¹⁸ (1962) and Hanson et al⁵ (1969). However, our sample did not reveal any differences.

Table 7: Comparison of Present Study Results of Cephalometric Analysis with Other Studies

Cephalometric Measurements	Present Study ^a		Barber and Bonus (1975) ^b		Cayley et al. (2000) ^c	
	Group TT	Group C	Group TT	Group C	Group TT	Group C
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)
SNA	82.0(3.8)	81.3(3.9)	82.0(4.0)	79.7(4.4)	81.9(4.3)	80.4(1.4)
SNB	76.4(3.5)	77.9(3.8)	78.0(4.1)	76.1(4.5)	76.9(3.4)	77.2(1.7)
ANB	4.5(2.0)	4.2(1.7)	3.9(1.7)	3.6(0.7)	5.0(2.3)	3.3(2.1)
U1-SN	117.4(9.6)*	106.4(6.5)*	110.7(5.7)	101.0(3.2)	109.6(5.7)	103.8(3.8)
U1-L1	105.2(11.1)*	120.2(13.0)	110.0(5.6)	128.5(1.4)	119.9(8.2)	129.2(4.3)
IMPA	104.0(9.1)	100.9(8.0)	101.6(4.5)	92.0(2.3)	95.4(7.4)	96.8(3.1)

Conclusions

1. Tongue thrust caused proclination of maxillary incisors.
2. Tongue thrust did not cause significant skeletal changes in the maxilla and mandible or dental changes in the mandibular teeth.
3. Children with tongue thrust showed increased upper lip thickness although it was not clear if it was a cause or an effect.
4. Tongue thrusting showed a significant familial trend.
5. Tongue thrust was significantly associated with incompetency of lips, mouth breathing, open bite, overjet (more than 2 mm), hyperactive mentalis muscle and lisping.
6. Tongue thrust was not associated with constriction of maxilla.

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