

Understanding the Physiological, Psychological and Psychosocial Impact on the Cleft Lip and Palate Patients: A Review

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Abstract—In a developing country like India, a congenital birth defect such as oro-facial clefts are a cause of concern. Lack of knowledge, traditional beliefs playing an important role. Regarding causation, the vast majority ascribed the cleft to “God's will” and some even consider it to be because of sins of past. Inequalities exist in India in access to treatment of Cleft lip and Palate, this when associated with lack of awareness has led to accumulation of untreated clefts causing huge health problem. On an average prevalence of clefts in India is somewhere between 27,000 and 33,000 clefts per year

Aims and objectives: To understand the physiological, psychological and psychosocial effects of cleft lip and palate.

Materials and Method: An extensive literature search was done on various search engines such as Pubmed and Google scholar with specified keywords. Both Indian and International Journals were looked at.

Results: Some major Physiological issues associated with cleft lip and cleft palate are feeding problems and speech and Hearing difficulties. Psychological And Psychosocial issues that were highlighted were Personality and Adjustment, Self Concept issues, Education and Speech difficulties, Behavioural Problems, Social interaction, Satisfaction Issues after the surgery, Social Stigma, Professional adaptability, Marital stance.

Conclusion: Along with the surgical reconstruction of lip and palate it is imperative to look into the physiological, psychological and psychosocial effects of this disorder for a complete holistic treatment.