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FROM ORTHOGNATHIC TO ORTHOFACIAL: A PARADIGM SHIFT

Over the past few decades, the field of dentofacial orthopedics has undergone a significant shift in its approach to treatment. This shift has seen a move away from traditional orthognathic surgery, which focused primarily on the position of the jaws, towards a more comprehensive and patient-centered approach known as orthofacial treatment.

The traditional orthognathic approach aimed to correct skeletal discrepancies between the maxilla and mandible, often resulting in improved function and occlusion, but with less consideration for facial esthetics. However, with the increasing emphasis placed on facial appearance and the rise of social media, patients are seeking a more holistic approach to facial esthetics.

Orthofacial treatment considers the entire face as a unit, including the soft tissues, and aims to achieve an optimal balance and harmony between all facial structures. This shift in treatment philosophy has been made possible by advances in technology, such as digital imaging, computer-aided design and manufacturing, and virtual surgical planning, which allow for more precise and predictable outcomes.

Another advantage of orthofacial treatment is the potential for improved functional outcomes. By considering the soft tissues and facial esthetics, orthofacial treatment can help to improve speech, swallowing, and breathing function.

We will also discuss the challenges associated with implementing an orthofacial approach, including the need for multidisciplinary collaboration and the potential for increased treatment complexity. However, with proper planning and communication, these challenges can be overcome.

In conclusion, the paradigm shift from orthognathic to orthofacial treatment represents a significant evolution in the field of dentofacial orthopedics. By adopting a more comprehensive and patient-centered approach, we can achieve improved functional outcomes and patient satisfaction, while also meeting the growing demand for facial esthetics in society.

CV

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