

CODEN [USA]: IAJPBB ISSN: 2349-7750

## INDO AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2604664

Available online at: <a href="http://www.iajps.com">http://www.iajps.com</a>

Research Article

# A DESCRIPTIVE ASSESSMENT OF ANTERIOR OPEN BITE OCCURRENCES ON A TARGET SAMPLE: A CROSS-SECTIONAL RESEARCH

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**Article Received:** January 2019 **Accepted:** February 2019 **Published:** March 2019

#### **Abstract:**

Anterior open bite exists as a gap which is acute and vertical between upper incisors and lower incisors along with centric occlusion teeth. Multiple factors are involved in the anterior open bite aetiology. These factors have multiple environmental and genetic features which are reflected in the shape of the palate, cleft lips and muscular dystrophy disorders also known as pathologic disorders with associated developmental factors. The objective of this particular research was to determine the anterior open bite occurrences in the selected population. A total of 300 patients reported in the Services Hospital, Lahore (October 2017 to June 2018). All these patients were examined for detailed clinical assessment and history. We also documented the alginate impression models and materials among patients who were dispensed in dental stones. We also measured dental casts in millimetres with the help of Vernier Calipers with a minimum count of (0.01) millimetre. Statistical analysis was made through SPSS software. Every variable was also tabulated for percentage and occurrence.

The research participants were in the age bracket of (15-30) years and the mean age of the research participants was  $(16.2 \pm 5.2)$  years. Female population dominated the male population as females were 56.6% and males were 44.4%. There were 14 patients of Anterior open bite (4.6%). Nine patients presented less severe open bite which was under one millimetre (3%); whereas, severe open bite patients were 5 having severity in the range of >1 to 2 millimetres (1.6%).

**Keywords:** Centric Occlusion, Anterior Open Bite, Vertical, Etiology and Orthodontic.

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Please cite this article in press Hamna Manzoor et al., A Descriptive Assessment Of Anterior Open Bite Occurrences On A Target Sample: A Cross-Sectional Research., Indo Am. J. P. Sci, 2019; 06(03).

#### INTRODUCTION:

Anterior open bite exists as a gap which is acute and vertical between upper incisors and lower incisors along with centric occlusion teeth [1]. Sakuda defined Anterior open bite as a deviation in the vertical association of mandibular and maxillary dental arches which lack in contact especially in the vertical direction between the opposing teeth segments [2]. According to the definition of McSherry, it is a vertical occlusal anomaly which has no vertical upper incisors and lower incisors overlap [3, 4]. The anterior open bite has another explanation that it is a state in which upper incisor crowns of teeth do not overlap incisal third lower incisor teeth crowns in the full occlusion of the mandible. It is also known as vertical deficiency [5].

Anterior open bite is different in different age groups and races as it is very common in Americans than Caucasians with the respective proportion of 6.6% and 2.9% [6]. Various countries have been reported with different proportion such as Kenya (8%), Saudi Arabia (6.6%), Columbia (9%) and Pakistan (94%) [7 – 10]. Research conducted in Bangladesh back in 1994 reported one percent cases of open bite malocclusion; whereas, another reported the same as 4.5% back in 2007 [11]. With the chronological dental development, the occurrence of the anterior open bite is less as it corrects the disorder autonomously in the course of mixed dentition phase.

Multiple factors are involved in the anterior open bite aetiology. These factors have multiple environmental and genetic features which are reflected in the shape of the palate, cleft lips and muscular dystrophy disorders also known as pathologic disorders with associated developmental factors [12, 13]. Other broad categories include sucking, sleep apnea, obstruction of the nasal airway, adenoid facies, long face syndrome, abnormal tongue function and size and vertical growth [15]. Such habits are mostly acquired and it may be due to the environmental and innate skeletal issues.

Due to relapse and compromised aesthetics, the management of anterior open bite malocclusion is very much difficult and complex. It sometimes becomes challenging as well [15]. Its treatment ranges from etiologic habits corrections to

hyperdivergent growth control along with dentoalveolar vertical hyperplasia. Success chances have been increasing with the introduction of technological improvement in the shape of screws and plates [16]. Treatment limitations include the presence of initial growth pattern and various associated etiologic factors, accurate prediction difficulties include treatment response, awareness lack, biological mechanisms mechanical and periodontal awareness, considerations with an increased iatrogenic effect. Individual conditions best judge the malocclusion and also guide professionals for better aesthetic outcomes [17].

The objective of this particular research was to determine the anterior open bite occurrences in the selected population.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

We carried out this descriptive, cross-sectional research on a total of 300 patients who reported in the Services Hospital, Lahore (October 2017 to June 2018). All these patients were examined for detailed clinical assessment and history. We also documented the alginate impression models and materials among patients who were dispensed in dental stones. The benefits, purpose and associated risks were briefed to research participants. Every patient gave informed consent before the commencement of the research study. We included undamaged study casts in the age bracket of 15 - 30 years with permanent dentition. Whereas, we did not include previously treated orthodontic, extraction cases, permanent tooth extraction cases, palate and cleft lips patients, craniofacial palate patients and damaged anterior jaws traumatic cases.

The researcher selected twenty cast sets which were reassessed after an initial assessment for both inter and intra-examiner validity and reliability. We also measured dental casts in millimetres with the help of Vernier Calipers with a minimum count of (0.01) millimetre. Statistical analysis was made through SPSS software. Every variable was also tabulated for percentage and occurrence.

#### **RESULTS:**

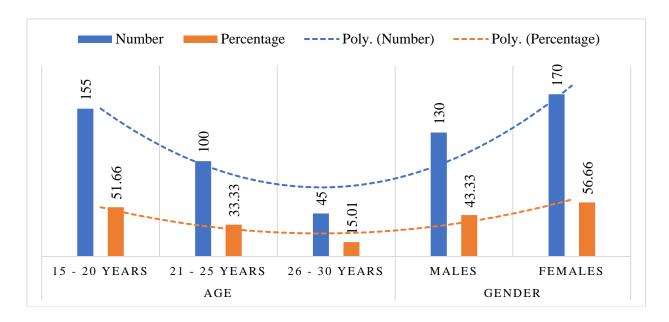
The research participants were in the age bracket of (15 - 30) years and the mean age of the

research participants was  $(16.2 \pm 5.2)$  years. Female population dominated the male population as females were 56.6% and males were 44.4%. There were 14 patients of Anterior open bite (4.6%). Nine patients presented less

severe open bite which was under one millimetre (3%); whereas, severe open bite patients were 5 having severity in the range of >1 to 2 millimetres (1.6%). Detailed outcomes are given in Table – I & II.

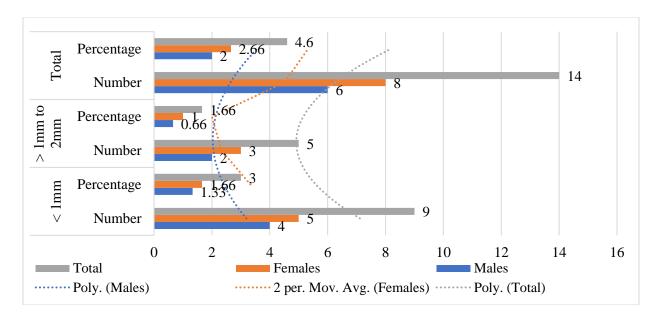
<b>Table – I:</b> Age and Gender Di	stribution
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	Age (years)	Number	Percentage	
Age	15 – 20 Years	155	51.66	
	21 – 25 Years	100	33.33	
	26 – 30 Years	45	15.01	
Gender	Males	130	43.33	
	Females	170	56.66	



**Table – II:** Anterior open bite status

Anterior Open	< 1mm		> 1mm to 2mm		Total	
bite	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Males	4	1.33	2	0.66	6	2
Females	5	1.66	3	1	8	2.66
Total	9	3	5	1.66	14	4.6



#### **DISCUSSION:**

From a larger pool, a total of 300 patients were shortlisted for this research. There were only 14 patients of anterior Open bite (4.6%) which is the same as reported by local and international authors [10, 18]. While, few other also reported a different prevalence of 3.5% [13, 19]. Al-Emran and Nagana reported 6.6% and 8% anterior open bite prevalence in the population of KSA and Kenyan population [7, 8]. Female population dominated the males about disease awareness. Few other studies also reported females in large numbers such as Al -Taee and Naeem reported respectively 60% and 69% [10, 21 - 23]. The origin of Open bite can possibly be dental or skeletal. We can make a clinical diagnosis of skeletal open bite with a cephalometric verification. Most of the patients developed overbite instead of large anterior teeth supraerupt mandibular plane [13]. In the light of the research objective, there was no such demarcation of the dental and skeletal open bite. In the absence of full eruption, the anterior open bite is physical in nature which is managed indigenously by a self-repair process. Other factors having reduced involvement are palate, cleft lip, craniofacial anomalies and trauma [24]. We included the patients of more than fifteen years of age because of full incisors eruption and canines. Few research studies also reflect a higher number of anterior open bite patients. According to Otuvemi, preadolescents and open bite were respectively 7.3% and 7% [25]. Whereas, Peter reported 8% preadolescent cases of anterior open bite [7]. Winfried and Eva Tausche reported 17.7% anterior open bite cases among preadolescents [26]. Brazilian research reported 46.2% anterior open bite patients in a total of 359 children [27]. The difference lies in the methods and population size.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The research outcomes conclude that multiple factors are involved in the anterior open bite aetiology. These factors have multiple environmental and genetic features which are reflected in the shape of the palate, cleft lips and muscular dystrophy disorders also known as pathologic disorders with associated developmental factors.

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