Clinical Pearl

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Elementary Diagnostic Craniometer

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ABSTRACT

Extraoral examination in orthodontics plays a vital role in diagnosis and treatment planning. Extraoral examination includes various factors such as shape of head and facial form.

Craniometry is the study of the shape and form of human head or skull. It is used to measure maximum cranial width and length. To determine the bizygomatic width and facial height 'vernier calliper' or 'Gap calliper high precision digital step face height gauge' is used. However, these devices are expensive and not readily available in the clinics.

Elementary diagnostic craniometer has been devised with simplicity in nature and comparatively accuracy in the results.

INTRODUCTION

Assessment of cephalic and facial index has a pivotal role in orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning.1 Tools like Mimmos craniometer, sliding calliper or spreading calliper have been used during extraoral examination for taking these records. 1,2 However, these devices are expensive and not readily available in clinics. Elementary diagnostic craniometer has been devised with simplicity in nature and comparatively accuracy in the results.

ARMAMENTARIUM

Stainless steel scale of length 1 feet, cold cure acrylic, two acrylic strips of length 15 cm and 4 cm each, mouth mirror handle of length 13 cm and 4 screws (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Armamentarium

PROCEDURE

- 1. Attach handle of the mouth mirror at mark "0" on stainless steel scale by using cold cure acrylic (Figure 2).
- 2. Make 4 holes on each acrylic strip to attach it on stainless steel scale using screws (Figure 2).

USES

- 1. Measurement of cranial length and width (Figures 3 and 4).
- 2. Measurement of facial length and bizygomatic width (Figures 5 and 6).

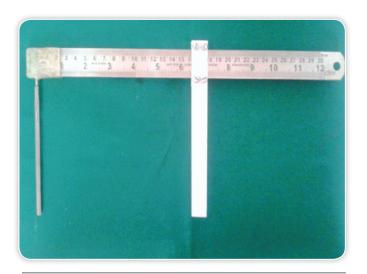


Figure 2 Elementary diagnostic craniometer



Figure 3 Measurement of cranial width



Figure 4 Measurement of cranial length



Figure 5 Measurement of facial length



Figure 6 Measurement of bizygomatic width

ADVANTAGES

- 1. Ease of fabrication
- 2. Cost effective

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