Botox as an adjunct to Lip repositioning for management of excessive gingival display in the presence of hypermobility of upper lip and vertical maxillary excess

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Abstract

Background: Excessive gingival display is a frequent finding that can occur because of various intraoral or extraoral etiologies. This work describes the use of a mucosal repositioned flap for the management of a gummy smile associated with vertical maxillary excess and hypermobility of the upper lip followed by injection of Botox.

Methods: Seven female patients between the age group of 17 to 25 years presented with a gummy smile. At full smile the average gingival display ranged from 6 to 8 mm. A clinical examination revealed hypermobility of the upper lip. A cephalometric analysis pointed to the presence of vertical maxillary excess. The mucosal repositioned flap surgery was conducted followed by injection with Botulinum toxin type A (Botox) 2 weeks post surgically.

Results: After 4 weeks results were definitely observed with a decrease from 8 mm gingival exposure to 3 mm, which was considered as normal gingival display for an adult during smiling.

Conclusion: For patients desiring a less invasive alternative to orthognathic surgery, the mucosal repositioned flap is a viable alternative. Also, Botox be a useful adjunct to enhance the aesthetics and improve patient satisfaction where surgery alone may prove inadequate in moderate vertical maxillary excess.

Keywords: gummy smile, lip repositioning, Botox.