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## C o n t e n t s

### EDITORIAL

A point regarding case reports

*Mukund Thatte*

111

### ORIGINAL ARTICLES

The use of Sanskrit, an ancient language, as a tool to evaluate cleft palate speech problems

*Kalpesh Gajiwala*

112

Speech understandability of repaired cleft palate patients pre and post caregiver training

*Jobe Andrea L, D'Mello Joan, Sanjay Kumar*

122

Effects of botulinum toxin type A on healing of injured skeletal muscles

*Ramin A. Shokravi, Mohammad Moshref, Behnam Eslami, Farhad Aghmasheh*

129

A comparative study of the efficacy of topical negative pressure moist dressings and conventional moist dressings in chronic wounds

*Leo Francis Tauro, J. Ravikrishnan, B. S. Satish Rao, H. Divakar Shenoy, S. R. Shetty,*

*Leo T. Menezes*

133

Microsurgical free tissue transfer as a valuable reconstructive procedure in foot reconstruction

*Mohamed El-Shazly, Mohamed Makboul*

141

Comparison of four surgical methods for eyebrow reconstruction

*Mahmood Omranifard, A. Mehrabi Koushki*

147

An epidemiological study of 500 paediatric burn patients in Mumbai, India

*S. S. Verma, S. Srinivasan, A. M. Vartak*

153

Epidemiological and socio-cultural study of burn patients in M. Y. Hospital, Indore, India

*Ashish K. Jaiswal, Himanshu Aggarwal, Pooja Solanki, P. S. Lubana, R. K. Mathur,*

*Sudarshan Odiya*

158

Early experience with the use of prosthetic mesh as fascia replacement in structural abdominal wall reconstruction

*I. A. Adigun, J. K. Olabanji, A. O. Oladele, O. O. Lawal, G. H. Alabi*

164

Soft tissue reinforcement interposition flaps in hypospadias repair

*R. B. Singh, S. Dalal, N. M. Pavithran, B. D. Sharma*

170

Facial aging: A clinical classification

*Melvin A. Shiffman*

178

What is the best choice for repair of distal penile hypospadias: The tubularized incised plate urethroplasty or anterior urethral advancement technique?

*Mohamed M. S. Awad, Adel M. Tolba, Khaled M. Saad, Mahmoud R. Zaghlol,*

*Ahmed Ezzat Rozigue, Osama H. Gharib, Saalim A. Khalil*

182

### CASE REPORTS

Rhabdomyosarcoma of thumb: A case report with review of literature

*S. Raja Sabapathy, Hari Venkatramani, S. Udhaya Shankar, Sanjai Ramkumar*

189

	Munchausen's syndrome in plastic surgery practice: A bewildering situation!	194
	<i>D. Nardella, M. S. Sohawon, O. Heymans</i>	
	Familial distichiasis	199
	<i>Siti Roy Chowdhury, Shamita Chatterjee</i>	
	Trismus: An unusual presentation following road accident	202
	<i>Jagdeep S. Thakur, C. G. S. Chauhan, Vijay K. Diwana, Dayal C. Chauhan</i>	
	Unusual case of cleft hand	205
	<i>Parag B. Sahasrabudhe, Madhuri D. Kulkarni</i>	
	Squamous cell carcinoma of lower lip in very young brothers of xeroderma pigmentosa	209
	<i>Hemant A. Saraiya, Mukul Trivedi, Jayesh Patel, J. T. Jhala</i>	
	Dental sinus with parotid duct fistula: An unusual presentation	213
	<i>Naren Shetty, Ashok Pandey, Nitin Mokal</i>	
IMAGES	A typical case of divided nevus of the eyelid	217
	<i>Sun Zhi-Yong, Zan Tao, Sheng Guo-Xiong, Li Qing-Feng</i>	
40 YEARS AGO	Problems of skin cover in injuries of lower limb with tissue loss	218
	<i>A Ganguli</i>	
CME	Anatomy of aging face	223
	<i>Rakesh Khazanchi, Aditya Aggarwal, Manoj Johar</i>	
	Reconstruction of nose in leprosy	230
	<i>S. Husain</i>	
LETTERS TO EDITOR	A simple method to make marking ink indelible	237
	<i>Maksud Devale, Mukund Jagannathan</i>	
	Regarding ethical issues in clinical research	238
	<i>Venkata Ramana Vollala, Bhagath Kumar Potu</i>	
	Access to scientific research papers	238
	<i>Vinita Puri, Sanjay Mahendru</i>	
	Suction diathermy	239
	<i>Samuel Chow Man Wai, Ringo Chu Wing Hong, Andrew Burd</i>	
OBITUARIES	Dr. Noshir Hormasji Antia	241
	<i>Behman M. Daver</i>	
	Dr. Manohar Hariram Keswani	242
	<i>H. S. Adenwalla</i>	

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## Editorial

### A point regarding case reports

Another year comes to an end. We are all home after a splendid meeting in the hallowed premises of the National Defence Academy, Pune. The President and his colleagues have worked hard for us and left us even richer in knowledge and skills.

With a sense of pleasure I present before you this issue of the journal, which comprises an amalgamation of interesting original works as well as case reports. Whether case reports merit publication has invariably been debated. There are those who say that a 'quality' journal discourages case reports and focuses on 'Original' works. I have thought regarding this for long and would respectfully disagree. Permit me to present my case before you. Case reports represent the communication between a colleague and his peers regarding a case that has confused, stimulated or taught him an important lesson in medicine. For a case report to be considered by a journal, it requires to be of sufficient rarity. The concerned author needs to do considerable background research and finally collect all the material and write the report. This is not an easy task and certainly deserves positive response from the editors. I think case reports are often invaluable if an author encounters a similar case not only already reported by another author but also which has provided the literature search, outcome and some valuable tips. They enable the author to manage the patient with greater knowledge and with the accumulated experience. This is what journals are for—to serve as a knowledge bank, accessible to the

concerned clinical community, so that collectively we, as plastic surgeons are better informed regarding the challenges before us.

This issue also contains certain valuable data regarding the epidemiology of burns in India. It not only makes for an interesting reading but also makes one introspect regarding the state of medical services available for burn patients in our country. It is heartening to know that authors are now documenting their cases and releasing data, which will be of use to the clinical community as well as to the planning professionals. The article regarding the Sanskrit language too is the most unusual, and in my opinion, extremely useful at least to those whose native languages are from one of the languages spoken in the subcontinent. In all languages, the consonants and vowels are taught in the same style—automatically sorted according to the mechanism of their production. The conclusions of the author were remarkable; however; none of us were affected like him. The most important things are often the simplest.

I wish all our readers a very happy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

**Mukund Thatte**

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