



Handicapping malocclusions with a potential to deteriorate, an index proposal and its application

Propuesta de un índice de maloclusiones invalidantes con potencial de deterioro y su aplicación

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ABSTRACT

The Public Health Sector need to select patients requiring orthodontic treatment at the 2nd and 3rd hospital level has led several authors to devise indexes to determine occlusal problems of non dental origin. However, none of these indexes can reliably measure the need in patients with cranial, facial and dental anomalies, which, at institutional level are a priority due to their transcendence, impact, magnitude and severity. For the purpose of this study we determined the most frequent cranial, facial and dental alterations in patients receiving treatment at the Orthodontics Department of the General Hospital «Dr Manuel Gea González» in 1996. A format was devised incorporating new variables. Each variable had nominal and ordinal values, so that their final addition would suggest the level of possibility and need for hospital based orthodontic treatment. This format was named “*Index for handicapping malocclusions with a potential to deteriorate*” (*Índice de Maloclusiones Invalidantes con Potencial de Deterioro IMICPDD*). It was applied to 80 patients who came to the hospital for treatment. Using the classification and the points system proposed, the lowest score was given to a totally edentulous female, patient with dysfunction while the highest score was for a female patient with a diagnosis of multiple facial fissures. The patient with multiple fissures would deserve a program of hospital administered orthodontic treatment while the edentulous one would not receive this service.

Key words: Occlusal indexes, handicapping malocclusions, potential to deteriorate, craneofacialdental anomalies, oral health areas.

Palabras clave: Índices oclusales, maloclusiones invalidantes, potencial de deterioro, anomalías craneofaciodentales, áreas de salud oral.

INTRODUCTION

Indexes are useful tools to determine and measure disease. They describe a relative situation of health or illness in a given population through a graduated scale with well defined upper and lower margins, which can also include qualitative information, thus, they can indicate the degree of severity.¹⁻³

Many research efforts in several oral health areas have been made in a search to obtain reliable and orderly information for the pathological dental or handicapping conditions. An example of this would be Kleins scale for the determination of caries prevalence CPO. This instrument has been internationally validated by

RESUMEN

La necesidad existente en salud pública para la selección de pacientes que ameriten atención ortodóncica de 2^º y 3er. nivel hospitalario ha llevado a varios autores a idear índices que determinen problemas oclusales de orígenes distintos al dental, sin embargo ninguno mide confiablemente las anomalías craneofaciodentales que son prioritarias a nivel institucional por su trascendencia, magnitud y severidad. Para este trabajo se determinaron las alteraciones craneofaciodentales más frecuentes de pacientes que recibieron tratamiento en el Departamento de Ortodoncia del Hospital General «Dr. Manuel Gea González» en 1996 y se realizó un formato al que se le anexaron nuevas variables dándoles a todas valores nominales y ordinales cuya sumatoria final sugiere el nivel de posibilidad y de necesidad de tratamiento ortodóncico hospitalario; a este formato se le dio el nombre de «Índice de maloclusiones invalidantes con potencial de deterioro» y fue aplicado a 80 pacientes que acudieron a solicitar servicio al mismo. La menor puntuación la obtuvo una paciente totalmente edéntula con disfunción mientras que la mayor puntuación fue para una paciente con diagnóstico de fisuras faciales múltiples, es decir que según la clasificación y de acuerdo al puntaje propuesto en este trabajo la paciente de fisuras múltiples entra directamente a un programa de atención ortodóncica hospitalaria, y la edéntula no requiere de este servicio.

health regulating institutions like the World Health Organization WHO, and the Public Health Organization PHO.^{4,5}

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Dental occlusion is a scheme hard to classify since it is the recipient of muscular and skeletal influences.⁶⁻⁸ Some classifications like Angle's⁹ have been made and some other indexes have been devised to determine the need for orthodontic treatment. These indexes are widely used in countries like the USA and Northern Europe where access to orthodontic public treatment has to be determined,¹⁰⁻¹² other indexes are also used to evaluate the effectiveness of orthodontic treatment.¹³ When dealing with cranial, facial and dental alterations, there are classification, such as Samuel Pruzansky's, to determine microsome lower jaws, and Paul Tessier's for facial fissures, as well as many others in the bibliographic references mentioned in this paper.¹⁴⁻²⁰

When dealing with malocclusions that require a different approach, and additional treatment from the usual ones administered in clinical orthodontics, Yudovich since 1978 uses the term *Handicapping Malocclusion with a Potential to Deteriorate*, in reference to patients with any type of cranial, facial and dental anomaly with dental, muscular or skeletal disorders, or any combination of these, and a degree of *handicap*. This means any type of limitation to carry on functional, physical, mental, occupational or social activity, and who show a *potential to deteriorate*, defined in the manual guidelines of the Orthodontics Department of the General Hospital Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez as «the possibility that the alteration has to develop to a greater degree of handicap than the one involved at the time, tending to become, at its maximum expression, an irreversible situation».²¹⁻²³ Since we deem them important we include in our study malocclusions found in cranial, dental and facial alterations, which can be of a congenital or acquired origin. Some of these alterations are cleft lip or palate, hemifacial microsomia, Crouzon and Apert syndromes, prognathisms, traumas, burn sequels, pathologies, etc.²⁴⁻²⁷

In 1960, Draker published a preliminary report of *Handicapping Labio-Lingual Deviations* HLD, where 9 conditions are classified (seven dental conditions, one condition specific to cleft palate, and one condition for traumatic deviations (such as loss of the premaxilla, osteomyelitis, etc). The presence of any of these conditions, regardless of their severity or extension, is sufficient to include the patient in the treatment program.²⁸

Grainger published in 1967 the *Orthodontic Treatment Priority Index* which we will call TPI. This research is based upon the study of the interrelations of ten malocclusion manifestations observed in 375 12 year old patients who had not received any previous orthodontic treatment. This index gives priority to patients with facial fissures and accepts them immediately²⁹ This index was later reassessed by Slakter et al., who incorporated psychosocial variables into it.³⁰

In 1968, Saltzman proposed a more comprehensive way to assess handicapping malocclusions, *The Priority of Malocclusion Index*, PMI, with a format of 72 boxes, divided in three sections: intra arch deviations, inter arch deviations and posterior segments. It also includes a supplementary form, which, according to their instructions, has to be filled at a later stage. The evaluation is made directly in the patient's mouth. In this section, 8 points are granted for each of the following deviations found:^{31,32}

- Facial and oral fissures
- Lower lip encompassing of upper incisor
- Occlusal interference
- Limitation of mandibular function
- Facial asymmetry
- Speech impediments

Based on Grainger's *Estimate of Malocclusion Severity and Treatment Priority Index*, Chester J. Summers published in 1971 the *Occlusal Index* OI, which, based on dental parameters only, evaluates nine characteristics of occlusion.³³

Years later, in 1981, Kinaan proposed *Quantitative assessment of the occlusal features*, in which the only variables considered are of dental origin, this method requires special gauges modified by him.³⁴

In 1984 in the article *Indices cuantitativos para determinar la anomalía ortodóncica y evaluar su necesidad y prioridad de tratamiento (Quantitative indexes to determine orthodontic anomaly and assessment for the need and priority of treatment)*, Tenenbaum, Morales and Goto published a format in which dental values are assessed. In this format priority is given to all genetic, congenital, functional and traumatic alterations.³⁵

In the same year, Yudovich contributed with guidelines on *Diagnóstico y manejo ortodóncico de condiciones invalidantes dentofaciales (Diagnosis and orthodontic handling of dentofacial handicapping conditions)*. Here, the dental, skeletal functional, genetic, traumatic, family background and geographic location aspects of the patients were considered. From this a format was generated, called *Índice de Maloclusiones Invalidantes con Potencial de Deterioro, IMICPDD (Index for Handicapping Malocclusions with a Potential to Deteriorate)*, this format is presently used at the Department of Orthodontics and Stomatology at the General Hospital Dr. Manuel Gea González.²²

Another index known as IOTN (Index of orthodontic treatment need) was developed in the United Kingdom. This index is divided into clinical and aesthetical components; the clinical component assesses purely dental malocclusion requirements into five degrees.

The aesthetical component assesses malocclusion based on 10 color frontal occlusion photographs to illustrate different levels of dental aesthetics.³⁶

Many authors have later used this index and have applied it to different population segments.³⁷⁻³⁹

In 1992 the European Journal of Orthodontics published the *Peer Assessment Rating Index*, PAR. This is a British index divided into eleven components obtained from study models.⁴⁰

In 1992, in the same Journal, 4 of the 6 authors responsible for the PAR Index publish an article in which they present this index as an instrument to objectively measure improvement in orthodontic treatments.⁴¹

The PAR index was validated in 1995. It can be concluded that this index is a valid instrument to determine the severity and difficulty of a malocclusion treatment, and that it can be used to appraise dental occlusal changes, as published by Richmond et al. previously.⁴² Green and O'Brien of the University of Manchester realized the importance of measuring malocclusions. They studied the influence of establishing «limit points» into the indexes, so as to give them greater validity. They published their results in 1994. In this article they also emphasize the point that, to this date, none of the indexes took into account the factor of self-esteem. Self esteem is a very relevant factor and is described in different publications. We suggest the ones we studied to develop the proposed index in this study.^{30,43-56}

Yudovich in several dissertations has considered the importance of mentioning the limitations created by psychological factors. This is one of the criteria used to evaluate when to accept patients at the Orthodontics Clinic of the General Hospital Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez.^{21,23}

The Probability Index (Índice de Probabilidad) was published in 1995. This index specifically classifies the degree of severity of Class II malocclusions and it does so by adding up values to 5 cranial and dental angles.⁵⁷

There is another index called *Índice de Estética Dental (Dental Aesthetic Index) DAI*, which, in 1996 was compared to the IOTN. Apparently, they are both quite similar since both consider aesthetic and clinical criteria. Notwithstanding, Joanna Jenny, in this article, reaches the conclusion that they are quite different when one considers their development method, sensitivity, reliability, validity and their ability to sort priorities in orthodontics treatment.⁵⁸

In other publications we found that in the USA, the states of California and Maryland have each made their own modifications to the HLD index. This pro-

duces two new indexes the HLD (CalMod)⁵³ and the HLD (Md). Many articles have been later published in an effort to rate and compare their application.⁵⁹⁻⁶³

In 1998, the American Orthodontics Board designed the *American Board of Orthodontics Index*, The purpose of this index is to assess dental alignment based on panoramic X rays and plaster study models of orthodontically treated cases.⁶⁴

Incidentally, this index was used by Abei et al in 2004 with the purpose of comparing occlusal results gathered by specialists in orthodontics and general practitioners in Ohio. They found that cases treated by specialists obtained a significantly lower score than those treated by general practitioners.⁶⁵

From another author comes the *Índice de Complejidad y Éxito y Necesidad de Tratamiento (Index of complexity, outcome and need) ICON*. In this index several factors are considered: the aesthetical components of the need of orthodontic treatment index, crossbite, crowding, or spacing in the maxilla, overbite, or open bite, and the relation of the anteroposterior oral segment to determine the need, success, complexity and degree of improvement of the orthodontic treatment.⁶⁶

In September 2001, Eung-Know Pae et al. published an article where they reach the conclusion that the lateral X rays of the skull are important to determine the severity of some types of orthodontic malocclusions.⁶⁷

In the same volume, Seppo Järvinen from Finland, describes some indexes for the need of orthodontics treatment and their uses in everyday practice. They show that the primary purpose of these indexes is to measure the priority for treatment, that is, to select which patients are to receive treatment and to give them preference according to the score, until all children have been treated.¹³

In 2003, the *Programa de monitoreo de éxito clínico (clinical outcome monitoring program) COMP* was published. This program consists in a software which allows the user to take data from the PAR, ICON, and the IOTN so as to evaluate more accurately results after an orthodontic treatment.⁶⁸

Based on this revision, one can conclude that, to this day, there are no specific indexes to reliably measure cranial, facial and dental anomalies. These anomalies are considered a priority at institutional level for several reasons:

- a) They are handicapping (transcendence),
- b) The number of patients afflicted by them in any given geographical area (magnitude) and specific groups (risk),

c) The stage in their natural longitudinal history when no timely treatment has been provided (severity).

If we consider the role of the orthodontic caregiver within the scope of the multidisciplinary team dedicated to the treatment of cranial, dental and facial anomalies, we can determine, that the orthodontist is the person who combines knowledge on growth and development and the ability to influence them with orthopedic devices.^{69-77,79} He can also achieve occlusion with orthodontic treatment and thus the stability required for orthognatic surgical procedures (segmental, upper and lower jaw advancement, etc), and cranial and facial surgical procedures such as block advancements.^{78,79} We undertook in this research the task of designing and applying the MICPDD index to detect and assess handicapping malocclusions with a potential to deteriorate, of the different cranial and dental anomalies. It is important to assess the disability level degree and the deterioration potential of the anomalies with the help of an index which can:

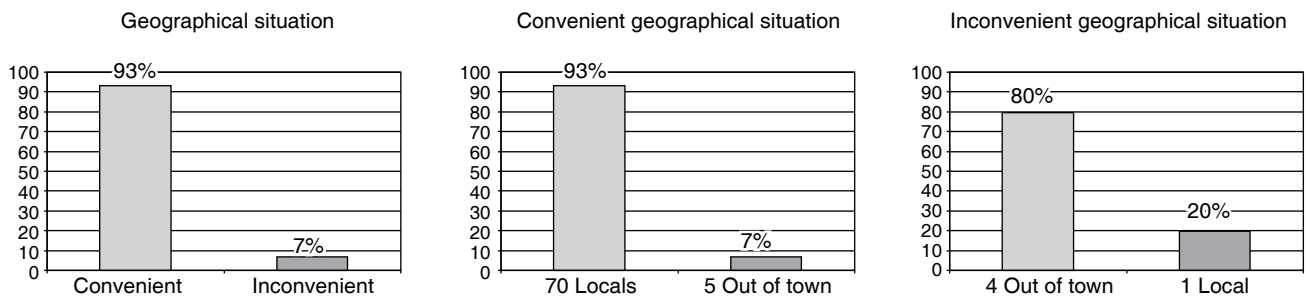
- Be used to unify and to determine the criteria of the severity, its transcendence (social and economic) and the degree of these malocclusions.

- To allow the fair distribution of human, physical and material resources of the institutions targeted to provide treatment to these type of patients.
- To establish a sound parameter for the development of Public Health Government Programs.
- To establish formal research lines in material resources in those therapies provided in these institutions.

In order to provide an example of the aforementioned, we show three photographs of children afflicted with unilateral cleft lip and palate. The three cases have similar diagnosis and encompass a similar age group. If we were in a position of only being able to provide care for one of these cases at institutional level, the MICPDD could help us make a more objective decision (*Figure 1A and 1B*).

METHODS

In this index design, the research is a descriptive, observational retrospective and transverse study and in regard to its application it is descriptive, observational prospective and transverse.



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 1A. Geographical situation.



Figure 1B. These 3 patients are about the same age, all of them with unilateral cleft lip and palate. If there would be capacity in an Institution to treat just one of them. Which one would you choose?

In 1996, one of the investigators obtained a random sample of 50 questionnaires submitted to patients seeking treatment at the Orthodontics Department of the General Hospital «Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez» (Table A). The craniofacial characteristics of the patients were described, as a posterior crossbite of skeletal origin, normally found in plagiocephalies.⁸⁰ The skeletal Class III cases, in which it is important to determine if they are the result of mandibular prognathism or a sequel of cleft lip and palate, etc. We built up a database according to the frequency of these ailments, in order to be able to make up an *Index for Handicapping Malocclusions with a Potential to Deteriorate* (MICPDD). In this study, we incorporated variables and punctuations, different scores to measure the number of structural alterations to determine the possibility and level of orthodontic care required, we also incorporated the necessary variables to include any malocclusion (dental, skeletal, muscular and/or functional). Each of these received ordinal and nominal values, so that the final values based on the score obtained could show, a direct relationship which suggests the level of probability and the need of hospital administered orthodontic treatment. Score values are based on relative complexity and/or the consequences they could have in the future, that is to say, the deterioration potential *Figures 1A and 1B* show the index structure.

We now present the variables included in this index and we explain the reasoning used to include them. We also present the scoring for each one of them.

On the upper left section there is a space slot with the word *Registro* (registration) to insert the number or code given by the institution to the patient. At the center section there is a space for the date in which the index is filled out, and at the right section a larger box to insert the total obtained at the index, it has this size so that the index can be easily seen.

The next section starts with the patient's name, then the *socioepidemiological information* is required. This section only accounts for the geographical location of the patient. It gives two points if the patient can come to the institution to receive treatment for the required time, and zero points if the patient is unable to attend with the required frequency. This last point is important since it would limit the treatment that could be offered to the patient.

In the next segment we locate alterations. We start with *functional alterations*, where one point is given in cases of speech alterations, two points are granted for chewing alterations three points for swallowing alterations and four points for respiratory and breathing alterations.

Image is another facet contemplated in this index. Image is an important factor of social development. Since we considered it a handicap, it received four points in each one of the affected areas. If a patient suffers rejection when applying for jobs or schools due to his image, this is considered a social handicap; we consider it family handicap in cases where the family itself or any of its members reject the patient and they relegate or hide him, or simply do not give him the same attention as his other siblings. We consider personal handicap those cases where self image of the patient is affected, regardless of whether we consider severe or not the alteration the patients shows.

In this index, the following alterations to consider are *skeletal alterations*. To be able to fill out this section, it is necessary to clinically appreciate whether there is any skeletal disharmony between upper and lower jaws, since, at the time we are filling this index (form) probably no radiographic studies are available. One point is given in cases of transversal alteration, two points are given for anteroposterior alterations, and three for vertical alterations. We granted this score, because we consider easier the correction of transversal problems and more difficult to correct vertical problems. Double points are given in cases when both upper and lower jaws are altered.

Temporomandibular dysfunction. In cases when temporomandibular joints are affected, one point will be given if there are sounds only when the physical exploration is carried out, two points if there are deviations, either on the opening or closing of the jaw, three in cases where pain is present, and four in cases when it is ankylosed. When patients arrive in pain, they are considered emergency cases, and are directly channelled to the treatment program, regardless of the score obtained in the index.

Periodontium. It is important in orthodontic treatments to have a healthy periodontium. In this item two points were given in cases where the periodontium is found in a favorable state, and zero points are given in cases where the periodontium is compromised. In this section we consider as compromised a periodontium which presents bleeding, gingival resorption and/or periodontal pockets, as well as in cases of 2nd or 3rd degree dental mobility (even if it is only in one tooth). We consider the periodontium as not affected in cases where it rates lesser scores than the ones we just mentioned, since it is possible that following periodontic treatment, conditions become favorable. If there is any doubt in this respect, it is recommended to discontinue the application of the index, send the patient to the periodontist, and re-evaluate him at a later date. The score given in this item is based on the

Table A.

Name Date (M/D/Y)

Index for Handicapping Malocclusions with a Potential to Deteriorate

Name _____ Age _____ Gender

M	F
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Socioepidemiological information	Geographic Situation		Inconvenient				0	
			Convenient				2	
	Number of people that lives in the patient's house					a. 0-1		
						b. 2-4		
						c. 5-7		
						d. 7 or more		
	Income (per month)					1 S.M.		
						2 S.M.		
						3 S.M.		
						4 or more		
Alterations	Functional alterations	Yes	Speech	No	Yes	1		
		No	Chewing	No	Yes	2		
			Swallowing	No	Yes	3		
			Respiration	No	Yes	4		
	Image	Yes	Social	No	Yes	4		
		No	Family	No	Yes	4		
			Personal	No	Yes	4		
	Skeletal alterations	Yes	Upper jaw				Transversal	0
		No	Lower jaw				Anteroposterior	2
							Vertical	3
	Temporomandibular dysfunction	Yes	Sounds	No	Yes	1		
		No	Deviations	No	Yes	2		
			Pain	No	Yes	3		
			Ankilosed	No	Yes	4		
	Periodontium		Not compromised (favorable state)				2	
			Compromised				0	
	Traumatic alterations	Yes	Scars	No	Yes	Child	5	
		No				Adult	3	
			Fractures	No	Yes		3	
	Genetic alterations	Yes	Malformation	No	Yes	5		
No		Deformation	No	Yes	5			
		Disruption	No	Yes	5			
Occlusal analysis	Dentition		Deciduous				1	
			Permanent				2	
			Mixed				3	
	Angle Class Terminal plane		I (Flat plane)				1	
			II (Distal plane)				2	
			III (Mesial plane)				3	
	Dentoalveolar discrepancies	Yes	Upper arch	No	Yes	2-4 mm	1	
						4.1-6 mm	2	
						6.1 o more	3	
		No	Lower arch	No	Yes	2-4 mm	2	
					4.1-6 mm	3		
					6.1 o more	4		
Subtotal 1								

Continuation table A.

Occlusal analysis	Dental compensations	Yes	Labialization	No	Yes		2		
		No	Lingualization	No	Yes		2		
			Rotation	No	Yes		3		
	Ectopic teeth	Yes					1 tooth	1	
		No					2 teeth	2	
							3 or more	3	
	Supernumerary teeth	Yes					1 tooth	1	
		No					2 teeth	2	
							3 or more	3	
	Absence of teeth	Yes	Loss	No	Yes		1 - 2 teeth	3	
		No	Indicated extraction	No	Yes		3 - 4 teeth	4	
			Agenesis	No	Yes		5 or more	5	
	Impacted teeth (except Third molars)	Yes					1 tooth	1	
		No					2 teeth	2	
							3 or more	3	
	Midline deviation	Yes	Upper	No	Yes		Dental	1	
		No	Lower	No	Yes		Skeletal	2	
			Both	No	Yes		Both	3	
	Open bite	Yes	Anterior	No	Yes		1-3 mm	1	
		No	Posterior	No	Yes		3.1-5 mm	2	
			Dental	No	Yes		5.1-7 mm	3	
			Skeletal	No	Yes		7.1 or more	4	
	Crossbite	Yes	Anterior	No	Yes			1	
		No	Posterior	No	Yes			2	
			Dental	No	Yes			3	
			Skeletal	No	Yes			4	
	Horizontal overbite		Positive	No	Yes		2-4 mm	2	
			Negative	No	Yes		4.1-6 mm	3	
							6.1 or more	4	
	Vertical overbite						1/3-1/2	1	
						1/2-2/3	2		
						2/3 or more	3		
Subtotal									
Subtotal 1									
Total									

Scoring:

40 points or less	Low	Do not necessarily require hospital or institutional based orthodontic treatment.
41 to 70 points	Medium	It does require hospital or institutional based orthodontic treatment.
71 to 100 points	High	It does require immediate hospital or institutional based orthodontic treatment

Fresh trauma and painful temporomandibular dysfunction are considered emergencies, they should be treated immediately so that they are directly channeled to the treatment program, regardless of the score obtained in the index.

contraindication to submit the patient to orthodontic treatment when he is suffering from /with an affected periodontium.

Traumatic alterations. In this index, we consider traumatic alterations those of skeletal origin and those alterations of soft tissue which have completed their process of regeneration and reparation respectively, otherwise they would be considered emergencies and should receive immediate attention. Fractures receive a three point score, regardless of whether the patient is a child or an adult.

When we found scars, these scored three points in cases where the patients growth stages were completed, and five points in cases where the patient was a child, since in these instances, the scars can deteriorate and affect during the growth process.

Genetic alterations. Five points are scored in these cases regardless of whether the alteration is the result of a malformation, deformation or disruption.

For this index, we tried to take into consideration the greatest possible amount of dental data. We place them in the MICPDD in the slot *Occlusal Analysis*; we then have the following variables:

Dentition. Patients with deciduous dentition received one point. The rationale behind it is that they should receive fewer points since, at a given point in time, they can wait for treatment. We granted the intermediate score for patients with permanent dentition. Patients with mixed dentition scored three points, since in these cases growth peaks could probably be found, and these could be taken as an advantage during treatment.

Angle class or terminal plane. Angle Class I and flat terminal planes received a zero point score, since they are considered to be an ideal «occlusion», two points were granted to Class II terminal distal plane, and Class III and terminal mesial plane received three points, considering the greater complexity of solving a Class III. If the same type of occlusion appears on both sides, the score is double. If the sides have different occlusion, the scores are added up.

Dentoalveolar discrepancies. Each arch is considered independently. A millimetric calculation is made of the difference between available and required spaces. The upper arch receives one point when the discrepancy lies between 2 and 4 mm; two points are scored when the discrepancy lies between 4 and 6 mm, and three points are given for discrepancies of more than 6 mm. In the lower arch, the same rationale was used, where two, three and four points were respectively assigned, the rationale behind this is the difficulty and complexity of recovering space in the lower arch.

Dental compensations. As a means to compensate bone based disharmonic growth, teeth tend to assume

positions. These positions can be excessive labial or lingual inclinations, or even rotations. Bearing this in mind, two points were assigned to inclinations and three for rotations, regardless of the compensated teeth. Rotated teeth received a higher score due to the difficulty they present to be corrected.

Ectopic teeth. In this index we consider a tooth to be ectopic when it is clearly located in a place other than its corresponding alveolus, and it is out of the arch. Teeth out of place were considered for their number, and not for their location. One point is granted in cases when only one ectopic tooth is present; two points are given for two ectopic teeth, and three points are given in cases when there are three or more teeth out of place.

Supernumerary teeth. As in other cases, if radiographic material is not available, only clinical findings are taken into consideration. One point is scored when there is one extra tooth, two points are scored for two extra teeth, and three points are scored when there are three or more extra teeth.

Absence of teeth. It is important to take into consideration the number of missing teeth, since missing teeth will limit the application of orthopedic and orthodontic devices. Bearing this in mind, the more teeth that were missing, the lesser score was obtained.

Independently of the origin of teeth absence (loss, previously indicated extractions, or agenesis), five points were assigned in cases when only one or two teeth were missing, four points if three or four teeth were missing, and only three points in cases where there were five or more missing teeth.

Impacted teeth. Third molars are not considered in this section. One point is given to one impacted tooth, two points are scored if there are two impacted teeth and three points are scored in cases where there are three or more impacted teeth. To fill the form it would be extremely useful to have a panoramic X ray. If this is not possible, then this section will not be taken into consideration.

Midline deviation. We have to be extremely careful when we assess the location of the midline. It is necessary to determine first whether the midline deviation is of dental and/or skeletal origin. We must also determine whether it is of the upper jaw, the lower jaw, or both. To achieve this we can use a segment of dental floss or wire. One point is given to cases where the deviation is entirely of dental origin, two points are given when the deviation is of skeletal origin, and three points are given when the deviation is due to both dental and skeletal origins. Double points are scored if both upper and lower jaws present this condition.

Open bite. Here we also have to be extremely careful. First of all we must record the presence of the open bite. We then must clinically determine whether

the open bite is of dental and/or skeletal origin, and whether it is anterior and/or posterior. After this has been determined, we can proceed to measure the alteration with a millimetric tape. Ordinal values were assigned in the following fashion: one point is scored when the open bite measures between 1 and 3 mm, two points are scored if the open bite varies between 3.1 and 5 mm, three points are scored if the open bite varies between 5.1 and 7 mm, and four points are scored for open bites in excess of 7.1 mm.

Crossbite. Here we proceed in a similar fashion to the open bite cases. We first determine the presence of the open bite. Then we must record whether it is dental and/or skeletal. Punctuation is as follows.

One point if it is posterior, two points if it is anterior; two more points have to be added if it is merely of dental origin and four more points will be added if it is of skeletal origin. This was determined so, according to the case complexity. It is easier to correct a purely dental crossbite than a crossbite of skeletal origin.

Horizontal overbite. We must first determine whether it is a positive overbite (Class II cases) or negative overbite (Class III cases). Then we must assess the size of the overbite with a millimetric tape. Once this is done, we assign two points in cases when the overbite ranges between 2 and 4 mm, three points if the overbite ranges between 4.1 and 6 mm, and four points in cases where the overbite is 6.1 mm and higher

Vertical overbite. In this slot, we register the percentage in which the upper incisor covers the lower one, regardless of whether there is crossbite or not, since this has been already previously recorded. The percentile punctuation is as follows: one point in cases when one third to one half of the incisor is covered, two points in cases where one half to two thirds of the incisor are covered, and three points in cases where more than two thirds of the incisor are covered.

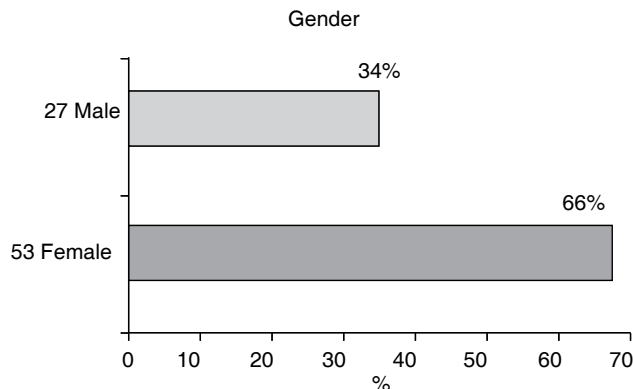
Once designed this method for the diagnosis of handicapping malocclusions with a deterioration potential we applied it to 80 cases who came for treatment to the Orthodontics Department. Through the application of this method we determined the frequency of need for orthodontic treatment.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

We present the results for every one of the variables recorded in the format, based on the analysis of proportions, and averages.

GENDER

80 patients were surveyed. 27 were male (34%) and 53 female (66%) (Figure 2).



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 2. Gender.

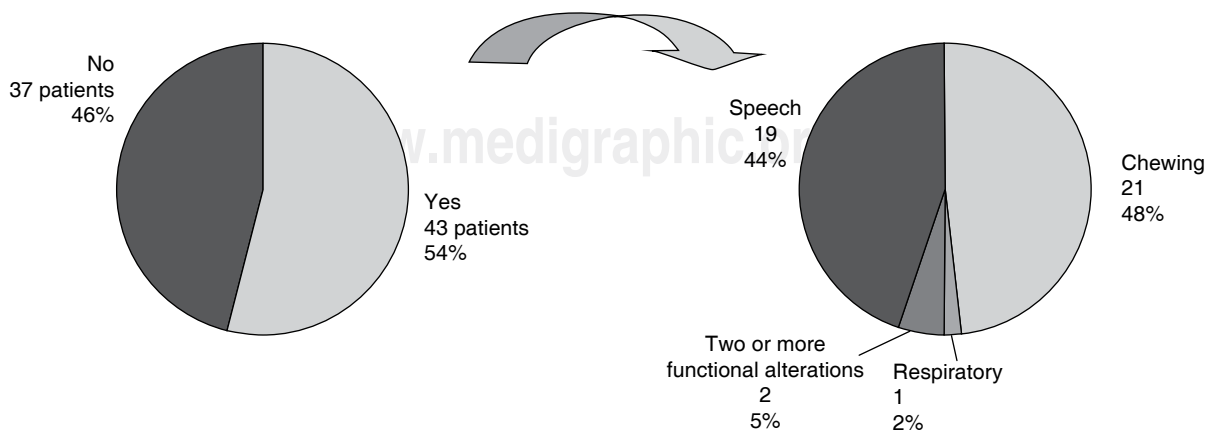


Figure 3. Functional alterations.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

75 (93%) out of the 80 patients, replied not having problems to attend on a regular basis their treatment appointments, while the other 5 (7%) mentioned difficulties to comply. It is important to mention that out of the 75, most of them lived in Mexico City, and in its outskirts in the State of Mexico, the others in neighboring states, 3 in Morelos, 1 in Hidalgo and 1 in Guerrero. All of them mentioned that according to their socioeconomic level chart prices they were willing to cover the expenses and could obtain the required work and studies leave permits to attend. Of the other 5, only one was from Mexico City and could not afford even the monthly transportation costs to the hospital (*Figure 1A*).

FUNCTIONAL ALTERATIONS

From the total population to which the MICPDD was applied, 54% (43 patients) presented some type of

functional alteration; 44% of these were speech alterations, 48% chewing alterations, 2% respiratory alterations and 5% belong to patients which presented functional alterations in more than one field (speech and chewing). None of the patients presented swallowing alterations. From the total number of patients presenting some type of functional alterations, 63% were female and 33% male. This shows that in this scope two females are affected per each male (*Figure 3*).

IMAGE

38% of surveyed patients informed they are affected by one or several of these categories: 44% percent feel affected in their personal life, 12% in their family life, 38% in their social life, and 6% in all the aforementioned. Of all the patients, 60% of the females and 40% of the males felt affected in their image (*Figure 4*).

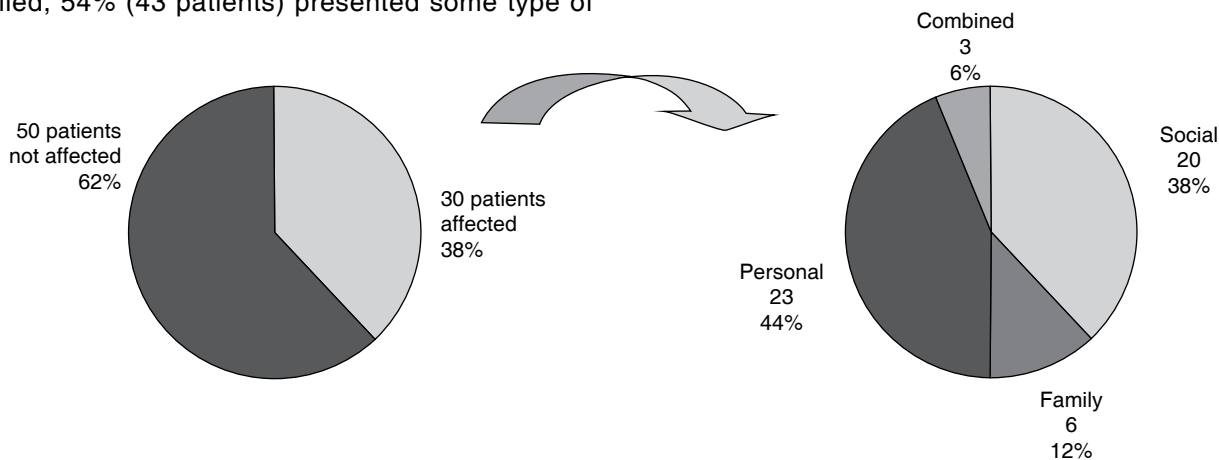
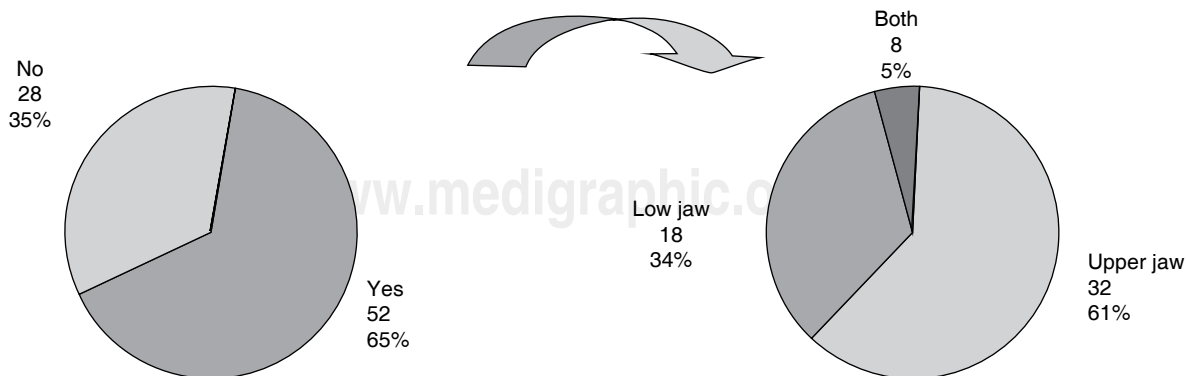


Figure 4. Image.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.



There are two patients with upper jaw alterations for each patient presenting lower jaw skeletal alterations.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

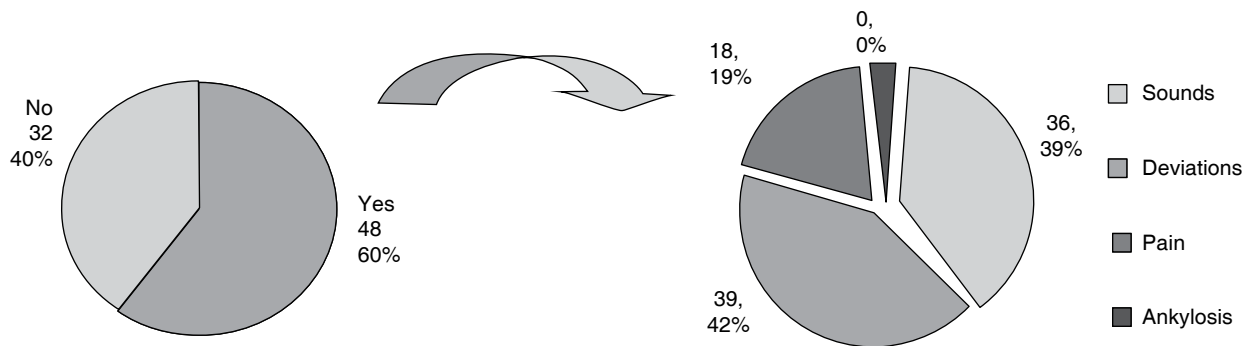
Figure 5. Skeletal alteration.

SKELETAL ALTERATIONS

65 of the surveyed patients presented some type of skeletal alteration; 61% suffered alterations of the upper jaw, 34% suffered alterations of the lower jaw, and 5% in both jaws. It is important to observe there are two patients with upper jaw alterations for each patient presenting lower jaw skeletal alterations (Figure 5).

TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DYSFUNCTION

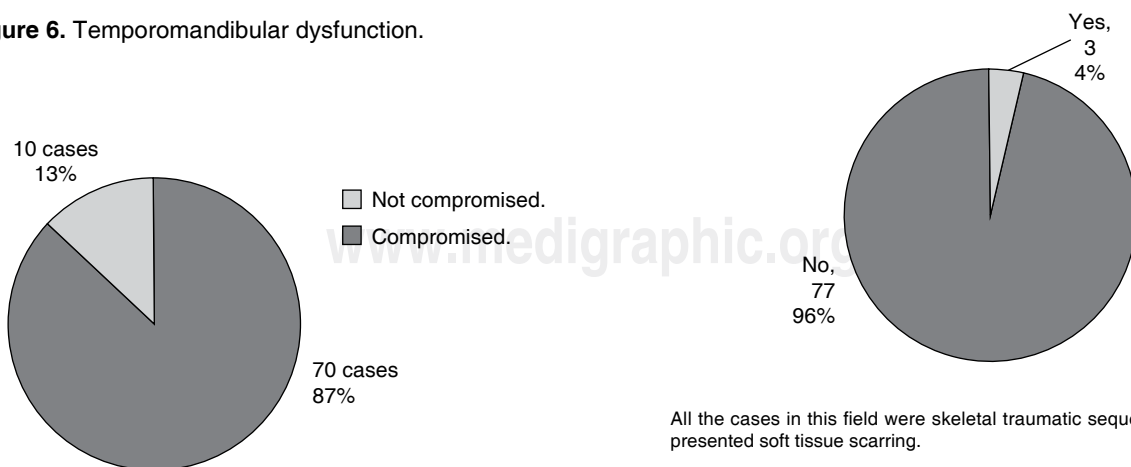
This variable was determined based on the presence of the following three indicators: articular sounds, deviations when opening or closing the jaws, and pain. 60% of the patients were affected by one or more of these indicators, either in isolation or combined. Of the body of patients, 5 reported pain with or without sounds and/or deviation, and they received immediate attention (Figure 6).



The cases of temporomandibular dysfunction that reported pain were treated immediately.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 6. Temporomandibular dysfunction.



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 7. Periodontium.

PERIODONTIUM

According to the parameters established in this study 10 cases (13%) presented a compromised periodontium (Figure 7).

Traumatic alterations By the time this study was carried out, of the 80 cases which came to the Orthodontics Department of the General Hospital Dr. Manuel Gea Gonzalez, only 3,(4%) presented some traumatic sequel. All these sequels were skeletal in nature and none of them presented soft tissue scarring (Figure 8).

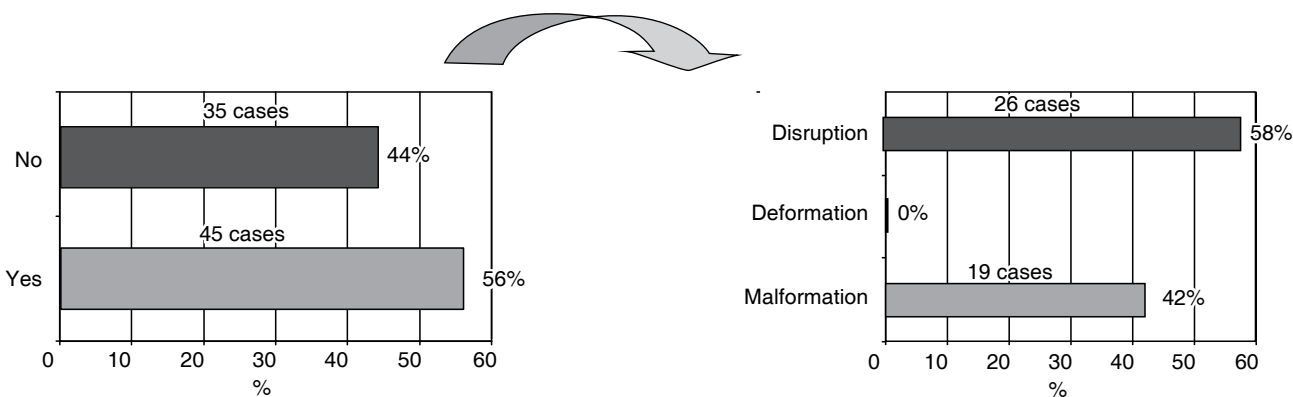
GENETIC ALTERATIONS

These were present in 56% of the surveyed patients. According to the origin of the alterations these were classified into the following: Malformations (42% of patients) Deformations, (0%) and Disruption (58%) (Figure 9).

All the cases in this field were skeletal traumatic sequels and none of them presented soft tissue scarring.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 8. Traumatic alterations.



All the genetic malformations received the same score.
 Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 9. Genetic alterations.

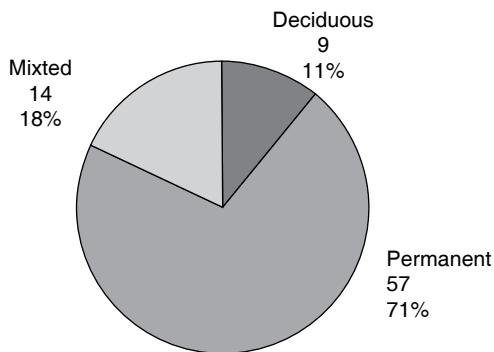
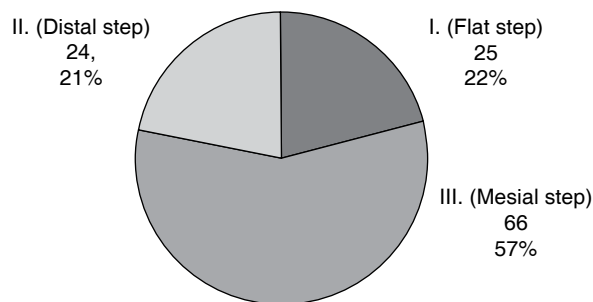
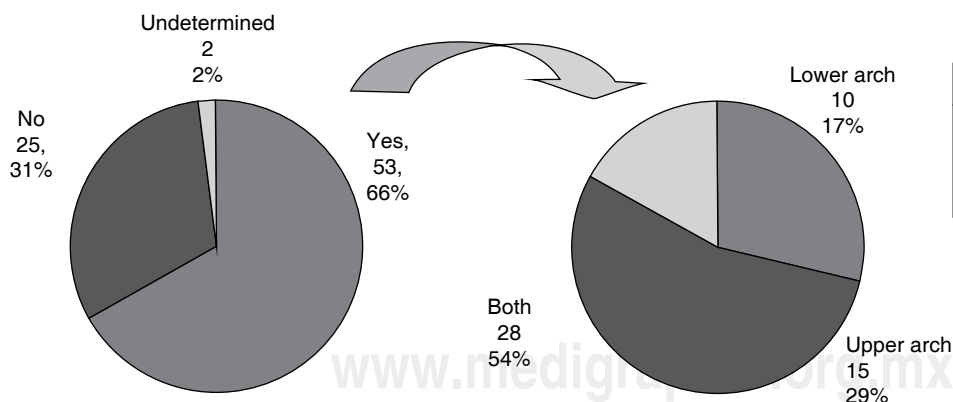


Figure 10. Dentition.



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 11. Angle class (terminal plane).



Discrepancy	Upper	Lower
2 to 4 mm	33%	47%
4.1 to 6 mm	33%	24%
6.1 or more	34%	29%

Figure 12. Dentoalveolar discrepancy.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

DENTITION

The dentition types were distributed as follows: 11% deciduous dentition (9 cases); 18% mixed dentition (14 cases) and 71% (57 cases) permanent dentition (Figure 10).

ANGLE CLASS (TERMINAL PLANE)

Class I and II Angle and/or distal and flat step were present in almost the same proportion (22 and 21% respectively) while Class III and or mesial step were

present in 57% of the patients surveyed with this index (Figure 11).

Dentoalveolar discrepancy 66% of patients presented insufficient space in one or both arches. The percentile distribution is as follows: Upper arch 29% of cases, lower arch, 17% of cases, both arches, 54% of cases (Figure 12).

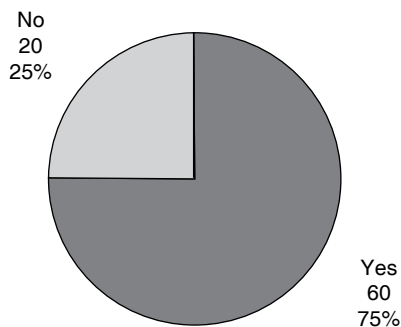
DENTAL COMPENSATIONS

Of the 80 surveyed patients, 60 presented dental compensations in different combinations of lingualization, labialization and rotation (Figure 13).

Ectopic teeth 20% of patients presented teeth out of location. Of this percentile value, 62 percent had one tooth out of place, 19% two teeth in this situation, and the 19% remaining had 3 or more displaced teeth (Figure 14).

SUPERNUMERARY TEETH

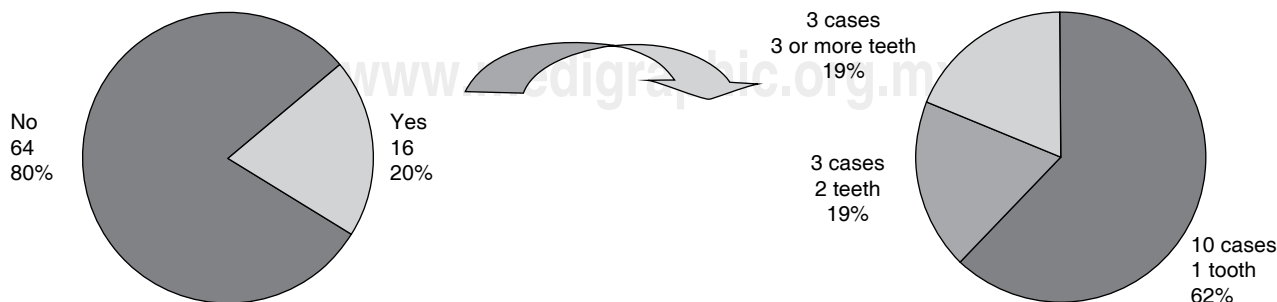
Only two patients (3%) presented each a supernumerary tooth (Figure 15).



60 patients presented dental compensations in different combinations of lingualization, labialization and rotation.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 13. Dental compensations.



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 14. Ectopic teeth.

Absence of teeth 55% of the surveyed cases presented absence of teeth; of these, 64% were missing one or two teeth, 14% were missing 3 to 4 teeth and 22% were missing 5 teeth or more (Figure 16).

IMPACTED TEETH

No corroboration could be made in any of the cases of impacted teeth in the surveyed patients, for none of them presented radiographic studies that could provide evidence of their presence.

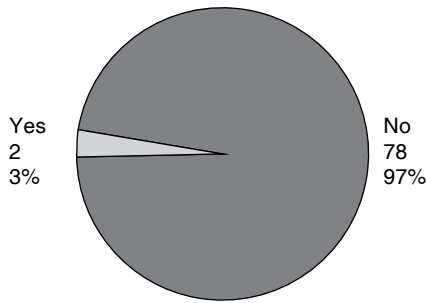
MIDLINE DEVIATION

When applying this index to surveyed cases, the following information could be gathered: 60 percent of cases presented this variable in any of its manifestations, according to their location, 21% were in the upper jaw, 28% in the lower jaw, and 51% in both jaws. We also observed that 11% were of skeletal origin, 23% of dental origin, and 66% a combination of both (Figure 17).

OPEN BITE

From the total surveyed cases open jaw prevalence represents 18%, 93% of the aforementioned percentile value is of skeletal origin and 7% of dental origin. As we can observe, it is easy to estimate the degree of severity, since the correction of skeletal open bite requires a higher financial investment and more complicated procedures when compared to open bite cases of dental origin (Figure 18).

Crossbite 40% of surveyed cases presented some type of crossbite. The higher percentage (37%) pertained to cases of skeletal anterior open bite (Figure 19).



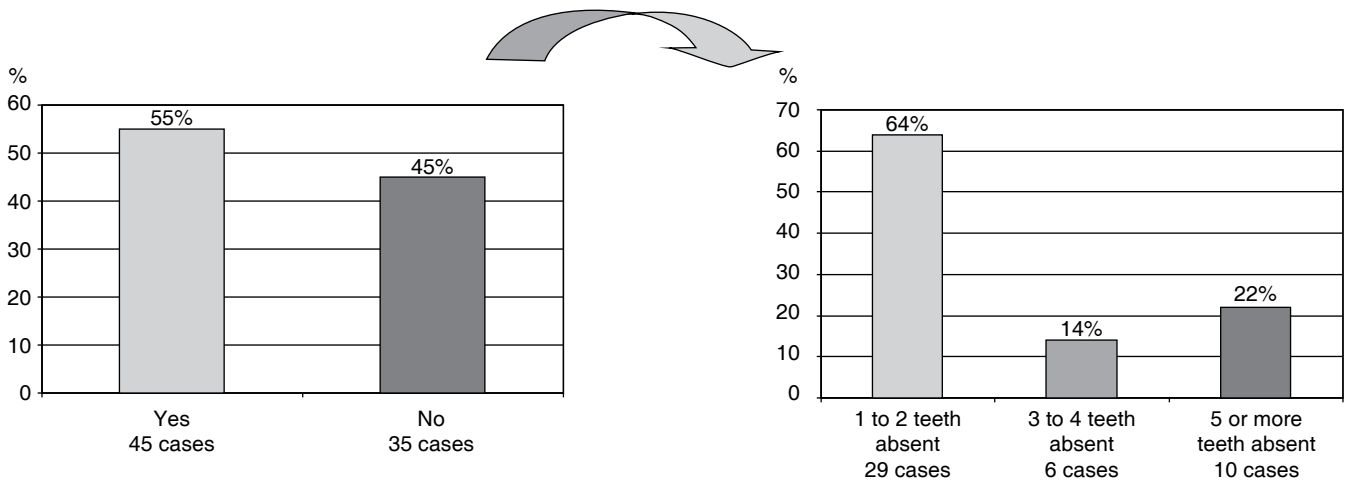
Only two patients presented each a supernumerary tooth.

Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 15. Supernumerary teeth.

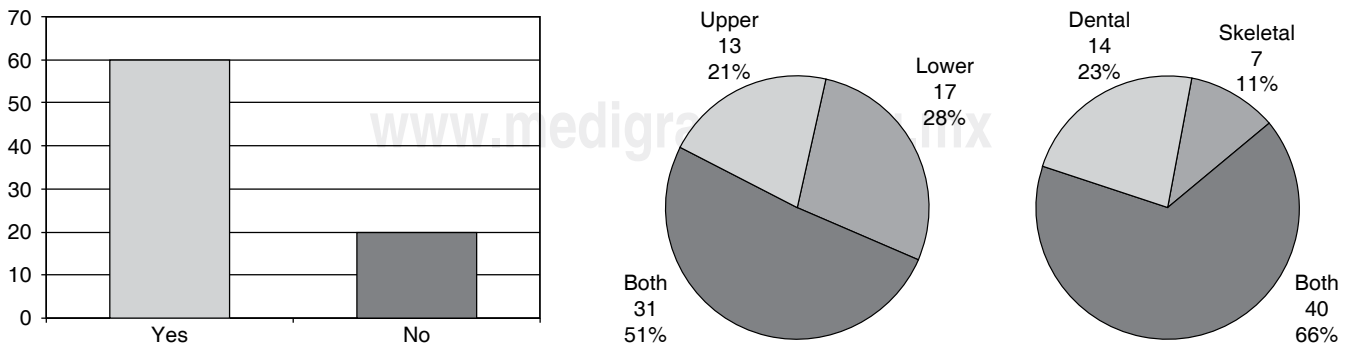
HORIZONTAL OVERBITE

We found horizontal overbite was altered in 57 patients. This represents 71% of the total. 37 of these overbite cases were considered positive (65%) and 20 were diagnosed negative (35%) 60% of the negative overbites spanned between 2 and 4 mm, 15% from 4.1 to 6, and 25% 6.1 or more. We must mention that the 23 remaining patients (29%) are not included in the horizontal bite category, for they present border to border bite, an overjet of less than 2 mm or absence of anterior teeth. Of the 37 positive overbites, 70% are in the 2 to 4 mm group, 27% in the 4.1 to 6 mm group and 3% in the 6.1 mm or more group. This last percentage is



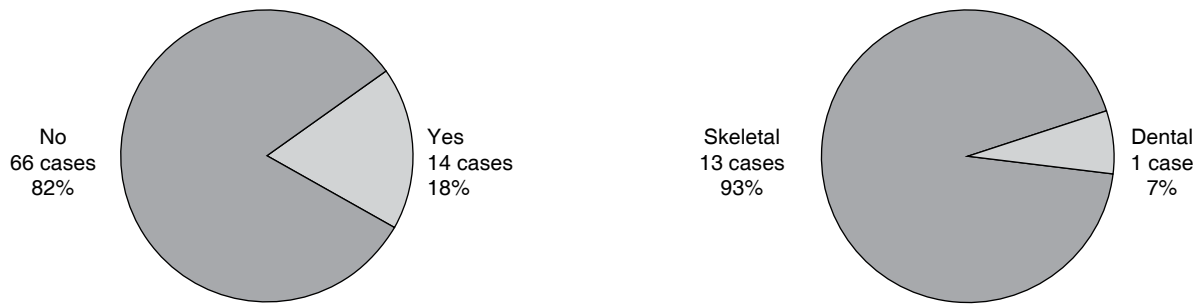
Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 16. Absence of teeth.



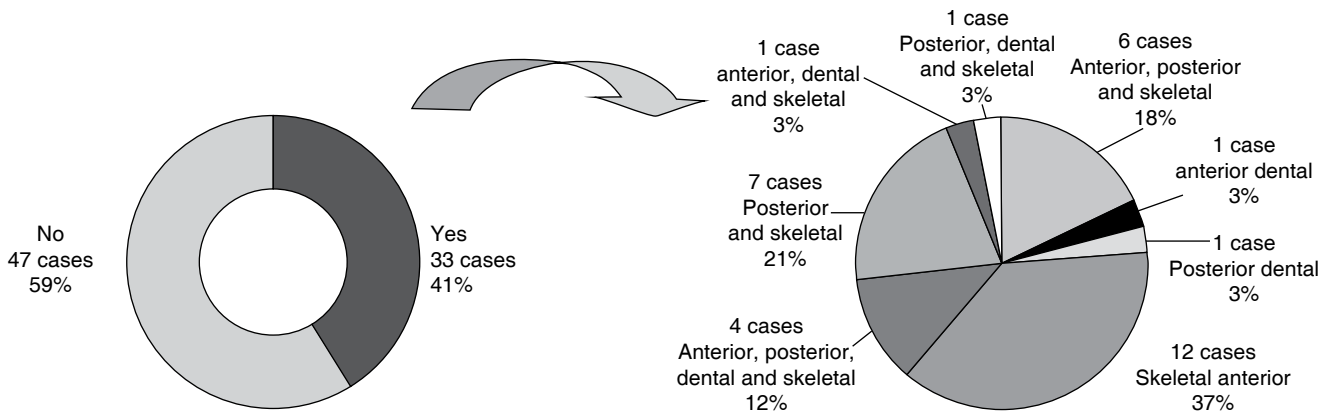
Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 17. Midline deviation.



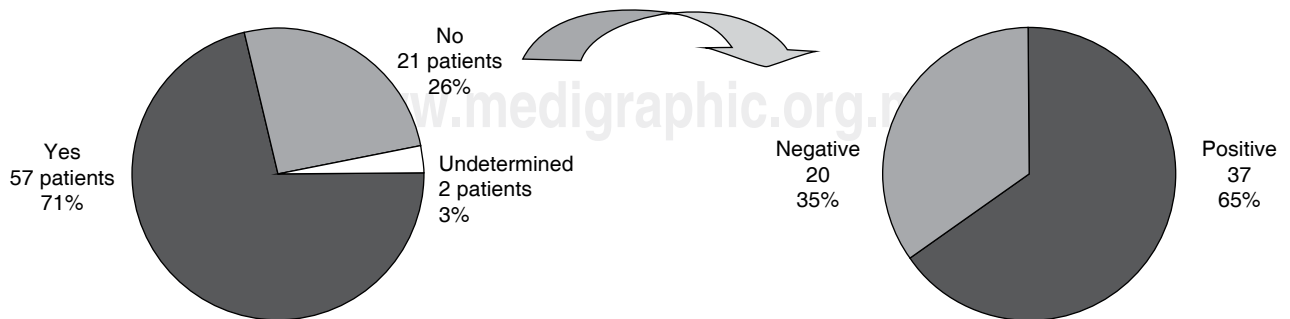
Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 18. Open bite.



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 19. Crossbite.



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 20. Horizontal overbite.

represented by one single patient who was diagnosed as suffering from protrusion of the maxilla (*Figure 20*).

VERTICAL OVERBITE

We recorded altered vertical overbite in 28 cases to which we applied the MICPDD (35%). From these cases, 9 patients (32%) the overbite present was in the range $< 1/3 > 2/3$, and in 5 patients (18%) it was $< 2/3$. In the remaining 50% (14 cases) of the patients vertical overbite was negative. This percentile values pertain to cases presented with open bite (*Figure 21*).

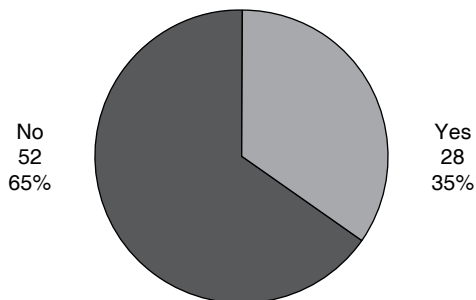
DISCUSSION

This paper aims at designing an index able to record and assign values to the characteristics of the patients affected by handicapping malocclusion with a potential to deteriorate. Social and demographic factors were not considered in any of the previous indexes, neither they contained variables and values as proposed in

this study (MICPDD) for disorders of non dental origin. It is important to consider these factors since they determine the level of orthodontic treatment that can be offered to the patient. Malocclusions are often due to muscular and/or skeletal factors, which per force, make the treatment more complex. Another specifically important difference with the Draker HLD, Grainger and Tennebaum indexes, is that this study includes in the clinical attention program, facial fissures or other types of cranial, facial and some dental alterations. As well the Salzman’s index, does not dwell in the degree of involvement and does not differentiate among types of craneofacial alterations. In the MICPDD they have higher or lower ordinal values according to the effect their presence could have in the dental health and in the stomatognathic function and facial appearance, and their application as a pilot test. These cases consider sequels and/or signs and symptoms present, there will be cases in which the fissure by its nature, or the previously received surgical or dental treatment warrants, immediate institutional attention, while in another case it can wait for treatment. There can even be cases in which required treatment doesn’t have necessarily to be carried out at this level. To give an example, in *figure 22* we show two cases of unilateral cleft lip and palate in two similar age patients. One of these patients, had received proper treatment since birth; the other received unskilled treatments. Here the images support the contention that not all cases of cleft lip and palate must be considered in institutional programs, at least, not be rated as urgent cases.

This index does not require sophisticated devices and instruments like in the indexes of PAR and Kinaan.

The index we propose here thoroughly assesses handicapping conditions. It differs from the previous ex-



Source: Results of the application of the MICPDD Index.

Figure 21. Vertical overbite.



Figure 22. As it is shown in this example of two patients with cleft lip and palate sequelae not all cases have to be treated in an institutional orthodontic program, or at least not immediately.

isting Handicapping Malocclusion with a Potential to Deteriorate because it contains nominal and ordinal scales which allow the classification of malocclusion into low risk, middle risk and high risk, according to the degree of severity shown by the case. This enables us to distribute fairly according to priorities and need, hospital, institutional and clinical orthodontic treatment and services.

CONCLUSIONS

Results obtained in this research project allow us to assess clinical, social and demographic parameters which reflect occlusal conditions as regards to their different origins. They can predict the possibility of deterioration when observing the original state of the patient. It also determines the possibility and level of orthodontic care required. The patient with larger number of structural alterations received the highest punctuation while edentulous patients and those presenting purely dental malocclusion, according to the classification, do not necessarily require hospital or institutional based orthodontic treatment.

For comparison's sake it would be important to validate this instrument in a different population. This would allow it to be used to unify criteria and determine the severity, transcendence (social and economic) and magnitude of handicapping malocclusions requiring hospital based orthodontic treatment in government facilities and in institutions where all resources, physical, material or human have to be geared to those patients who are most in need o treatment.

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