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PhD in Medical Sciences
2021-2022

INVITATION to the Public defence of

Ana TACHE

To obtain the academic degree of

'DOCTOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCES'

Long-term functional outcomes of standardized primary cleft palate care

The public defence will take place on

Tuesday, 19 April 2022 at 5 p.m.

In Auditorium Piet Brouwer

Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

and will be organised online, accessible through the following link:

https://gf.vub.ac.be/redirects/PhD_defense_Ana_Tache.php

Please contact the PhD candidate if you want to attend the public defence.

Summary of the dissertation

This thesis aimed evaluate the functional outcomes of our standardized primary palate cleft protocol. The main indicators assessed were palatal fistula rate, necessity for maxillary osteotomy, necessity for velopharyngeal insufficiency surgery, and alveolar bone graft failure. Results from systematic literature reviews were compared against the results from our patient cohort. When investigating maxillary growth and the need to correct its impairment through maxillary osteotomies, the literature revealed no difference between patients treated according to a one-stage palatoplasty protocol and a two-stage protocol. The frequency of maxillary osteotomy in our cohort, operated following a two-stage palatoplasty was lower than the one reported in the literature (5.9% vs 20.8%). In our retrospective study, only 2.9% of the patients required secondary pharyngoplasty compared to 24.5% in the literature. The frequency of surgery to correct velopharyngeal insufficiency after two-stage protocol was higher than after one-stage palatoplasty. The incidence of postoperative oronasal fistulae occurrence was subsequently investigated and risk factors associated with its development were identified. A new technique of closing the hard palate that may contribute to preventing fistula formation at the hard/soft palate junction was described. A systematic review was performed to determine which analgesic protocol was most efficient and most effective in overcoming pain and promoting functional recovery after iliac bone harvesting. The success rate of autologous mid-secondary alveolar bone grafting in our patient cohort was further analysed. A custom-made, 3D printed, resin-bonded arch bar was introduced, as a method of stabilizing the premaxilla during and after alveolar bone grafting in bilateral cases as well as an open-access point-of care nasal stent that can be easily customized by surgeon.

https://issuu.com/home/published/tache_ana_long_term_functional_outcomes_of_standar

Curriculum Vitae

Ana Tache was born in Bucharest, Romania in 1989. In 2013, she obtained a bachelor's and master's degree in Dental Medicine from "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, where she graduated top of her class. Between 2013 and 2016, she attended the Faculty of Medicine of the same University, where she obtained a bachelor's and master's degree in Medicine. She further pursued clinical training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Prof. Dr. Dan Theodorescu Maxillofacial Hospital, Bucharest, Romania. In 2017, two years before graduating the program, Ana recommenced the surgical specialization at the University Hospital Brussels "European Face Centre", Brussels, Belgium under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Mult. Maurice Mommaerts. Under Prof. Mommaerts's mentorship she specializes in cleft, orthognathic and aesthetic surgery. Between 2019 and 2020, Ana worked as a trainee at Ziekenhuis Oost Limburg, Genk, Belgium, under the teaching of Prof. Serge Schepers. In 2021, she was officially certified as a Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Belgium (Mond-, kaak- en aangezichtschirurg). She recently finished her surgical and research fellowship in the Cleft Team of University Hospital Basel, Switzerland, PD Dr. Mult. Andreas Mueller.