**Duration of Combined Orthodontic-Orthognathic Treatment**

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**Background**

Patients requiring orthognathic surgery (Fig.1) combined with orthodontics represent a significant portion (7%) of the cases treated by Consultant Orthodontists in the UK1. A number of studies have shown that patients value thorough communication and information about treatment prior to commencing orthodontic-orthognathic treatment2-4. If this is not done adequately patient satisfaction can be reduced, patients can feel depressed and consent may not be valid5.

**Aims**

To investigate:
- Pre-surgical treatment time
- Time from end of pre-surgical orthodontics to surgery
- Time from surgery to beginning of post-surgical orthodontics
- Post-surgical orthodontic treatment time
- Total treatment time

**Standard**

90% of patients should have their entire combined orthodontic-surgical treatment completed within 30 months

**Process**

This retrospective audit assessed all 98 patients undergoing orthodontic-orthognathic treatment at Dundee Dental Hospital and Perth Royal Infirmary where surgery was carried out at Ninewells Hospital (Dundee) between 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2010.

The following information was gathered from casenotes:
- Age at beginning of treatment and at surgery
- Gender
- Malocclusion
- Surgical procedure
- Extraction/non-extraction

**Changes to Clinical Practice**

Patients should be booked on the multidisciplinary planning clinic 1 year after the start of pre-surgical orthodontic treatment for an anticipated surgical date to be determined.

**Results**

- Age: mean age at beginning of treatment was 23.0; 24.9 at surgery
- Gender: 32 male; 66 female

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate malocclusions and procedures

**References**