

RESPONSE TO REVIEWER COMMENTS

Reviewer code: 00742466

Well written case report. No major changes are required.

Response: Thank you.

Reviewer code: 00742424

It was a well-written and systematically organized.

Response: Thank you

Here are some issues which should be discussed in the manuscript:

1. It seems this paper is duplication of what the authors have published before (reference 9, 10). It will be advisable to discuss the differences.

Response:

Yes, the paper is a close duplication of our previously published articles (Ref. 9 and 10). Though similar technique is described in these articles, we have developed the step by step procedure of the technique on Ideal Dummy Casts (not of patients) (unlike previous articles). We have tried to simplify the technique on the Ideal Dummy models with more pictures. In addition we have provided the report of 11 cases (unlike previous articles where single case report has been presented.) Also the discussion has been added in detail as there is no page restriction.

2. How about the thickness of the buccal flanges especially at the resected site? Will it influence the tissue responses after the healing period?

Response:

The thickness of the buccal flange is kept approximately 2-3 mm. The smooth borders are critical to avoid any tissue injury. The outer polished surface of the buccal flange is supporting the tissues hence the thickness of the flange will not be of much concern in this situation but the polished surface and borders. Same is added in the manuscript, Technique section Page 6.

3. It will become a stronger evidence if the authors can do a clinical trial comparing immediate and delay obturator in terms of contracture and scarring.

Response:

Thank you for the suggestion. The clinical trial is already started in our institute. You can find the details of the Trial (CTRI/2013/02/003377 Registered on: 11/02/2013) on "Clinical Trial Registry in India Website". Here is the link:

<http://ctri.nic.in/Clinicaltrials/pmaindet2.php?trialid=5982&EncHid=&userName=obturator>

But we have to wait till 6 months for the results and that would become another data to publish separate article. The same is mentioned in 'Future Scope' subtitle in Discussion section Page: 10.

4. The authors should show an photo of patient wearing immediate obturator immediately after surgery to compare with 6 month appearance.

Response:

Thank you for the good suggestion. The Photograph 'immediately after surgery' has been added (Fig. 11C).