

Current Trends in Oral and Maxillofacial Complication Rates: a 9-Year Retrospective Review of Mortality and Morbidity Incidents

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Objectives: Mortality and morbidity (M&M) are two parameters frequently reviewed in both the academic and hospital setting in order to better understand negative outcomes for patients as well as to ensure safeguards are put in place to prevent such a complication from occurring again. In the academic setting, measuring mortality and morbidity over a specific period has been shown to be a valuable pedagogical tool as it provides insights into the complication rates and types [1-9]. The aim of this study is to determine if there are any statistically significant trends of note in relation to OMFS complication rates over the past 9 years at Memorial-Hermann Hospital.

Experimental Methods: In this retrospective study, Mortality and Morbidity records from the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery department at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas are reviewed and compared to total case numbers to determine updated complication rates; additionally, the M&M incidents are categorized to determine the most common types of complications.

Results: No statistically significant trend is observed generally, nor for the infection, trauma, or dentoalveolar subcategories over the 9-year period.

Conclusion: Despite the adoption of several technological advances including intraoperative CT imaging, intraoperative CT navigation, virtual surgical planning, and patient-specific implants and cutting guides, many of which reduce OR time for many procedures, the observed complication rate does not differ before or after implementation.

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