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Outcomes for craniofacial implants and facial prostheses

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Background: The aim of this study was to evaluate the outcomes for craniofacial implants and facial prostheses. Patients underwent reconstruction of orbital, nasal and auricular defects following oncological resection or following trauma.

Methods: All patients who had titanium osseo-integrated implants placed from January 1st 2020 to December 31st 2021 were included. Patients had prosthetic facial reconstruction following osseointegration of implants. The validated University of Washington quality of life questionnaire was completed following reconstruction by patients.

Results: There were 41 osseo-integrated implants placed in the temporal bone, maxilla, and orbital rim in 16 patients (9 male, 7 female), and their mean age was 56 years (range, 28–82 years). Thirteen patients had an eye, ear or a nose resected as part of their oncological surgery. There were 3 post traumatic ear reconstruction cases. The implant survival rate was 95%. The proportion of implants placed that were subsequently used to secure a facial prosthesis was 61% (n=29). There were 2 implant failures (5%), one from the maxilla and one at the orbital rim. Radiotherapy was not found to increase the risk of implant failure. University of Washington quality of life questionnaire was administered to patients following reconstruction to assess functional

outcomes. This revealed increased self-confidence and improved satisfaction with appearance and stability.

Conclusions: Craniofacial implant retained prostheses are a reliable and effective option for restoration of facial defects. Patients report high levels of satisfaction with appearance and function with implant retained prostheses.

Keywords: Craniofacial implants; facial prosthesis; quality of life; oncological resection; orbital defects

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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