

## **Contribution of Jean Delaire's thinking to modern orthognathic surgery and to the understanding of cranio-maxillo-facial syndromes**

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Orthognathic surgery (jaw normalization surgery) is old.

The first cases described seem to date back to the 19th century. At that time the surgery was limited by anatomical or technical reasons. Professor Jean Delaire was very early influenced by the thoughts of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which were the subject of controversies for a long time. Between the supporters of the "facial pattern" and those of the fully functional, the debates were heated. Professor Jean Delaire will synthesize the different theories of embryology and maxillofacial growth which will allow him to develop a cranio-maxillo-facial analysis. The latter establishes a theoretical balance for each patient. At each level (maxillary, alveolar and dental), the analysis makes it possible to objectify all the anomalies and thus to know the corrections that have to be made to restore this facial balance. Thanks to this analysis, modern orthognathic surgery (practically without any technical limits) can express its whole potential by following the Delaire's analyse. The most complex anomalies are now pointed out and corrected properly allowing the most aesthetic and stable results.

With the help of this analyse malformations of the cephalic extremity are better understood. The deformations that have arisen as a result of an initial organic defect can now be treated in an appropriate way.

Different practical cases will be presented.