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Rhinometry and open-mouth posture in young children.

<u>Gross AM</u>, <u>Kellum GD</u>, <u>Morris T</u>, <u>Franz D</u>, <u>Michas C</u>, <u>Foster ML</u>, <u>Walker ME</u>, <u>Bishop FW</u>.

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A biracial sample of 348 elementary school children who were in the first grade were assessed for open-mouth posture (OMP) in the natural environment. In addition, rhinometry was performed on 296 of the children. Means were computed for percent OMP and cross-sectional nasal airway. Results indicated that, in general, these children exhibited relatively high rates of OMP. Boys displayed significantly greater OMP than girls, and black children showed significantly larger cross-sectional nasal areas than white children. A significant correlation between OMP and nasal area only was evident for children exhibiting OMP during more than 80% of the observation intervals. The implications of the findings were discussed.

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