

[Coll Antropol.](#) 2005 Dec;29(2):429-34.[Links](#)

## **The influence of incompetent lip seal on the growth and development of craniofacial complex.**

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Abnormal orofacial functions in the period of growth and development can cause morphological anomalies of the craniofacial complex. The aim of this study was to determine the correlation between open mouth posture and morphology of craniofacial complex. The shape, size and relationships of skeletal parts of craniofacial complex were determined by analysis of lateral cephalograms in the sample of 84 children--45 girls and 39 boys (aged 8.96 +/- 0.66 years). The sample was divided into two groups--lip competence and lip incompetence group. Differences in cephalometric values between observed groups were found. The values of inclination of lower central incisors (angle ILi/NB), interbasal angle (NL/NSL), angle between occlusal and mandibular plane and anterior lower facial height were significantly higher in the group with open mouth posture. It can be concluded that lip incompetence plays an important role in growth and development of craniofacial complex.

PMID: 16417139 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]