CONGENITAL DOUBLE UPPER LIP : A CASE REPORT

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Double lip, congenital or acquired, is a relatively rare clinical entity. Amongst the acquired variety haemangioma, lymphangioma or inflammatory types are common.

The following case illustrates a congenital double lip involving the upper lip, which became evident 4½ years after birth.

Case Report

A 9 year old female child was brought to the hospital by her parents with the history of gradual diffuse swelling of the upper lip with intermittent watery discharge since the child was 4½ years old. This progressed for 4 years and then became static. She suffered from small pox at the age of two years.

The swelling was generalised. There was more prominence on both sides with a central notching. The buccal portion of the double border was rather loose and redundant. There was a transverse furrow of varying depth between normal lip and redundant portion. The deformity was obvious even when the mouth was closed (Fig. 1). There were small punctate areas on the redundant portion where from fluid use to come. The area was pinkish in colour, soft, not reducible and nonpulsatile, Sphincteric action of the oral commisure was normal. There were pox marks over her face.

Microscopically, the specimen showed the oral mucosa with salivary glands showing chronic sialoadenitis. The margins showed keratinisation. No muscle fibres were seen.

The patient was treated surgically. The redundant buccal fold was excised by two transverse elliptical incsions extending from both the commisures to the central notch. The lip was reconstructed by careful approximation of the mucosal edges (Fig. 2).

Discussion

Congenital double lip is not frequently seen, (Calnan 1952). The deformity usually involves the upper lip (Macomber, 1977). The central notching, which is clinically evident, is probably due to the attachment of the frenulum of the upper lip.

Other conditions simulating double lip could be haemangioma, lymphangioma, elephantiasis or cheilitis glandularis. Haemangioma has a bluish colouration, is compressible and increase in size when dependent. Diffuse enlargement is found in lymphangioma and by stretching the mucosa, the lip appears translucent. Thickened mucous membrane and hypertrophic folds on the skin and mucosa are often associated with elephantiasis. Histological evidence of chronic infection which was demonstrated in this case is not an unusual finding in congenital double lip (macomber, 1977).

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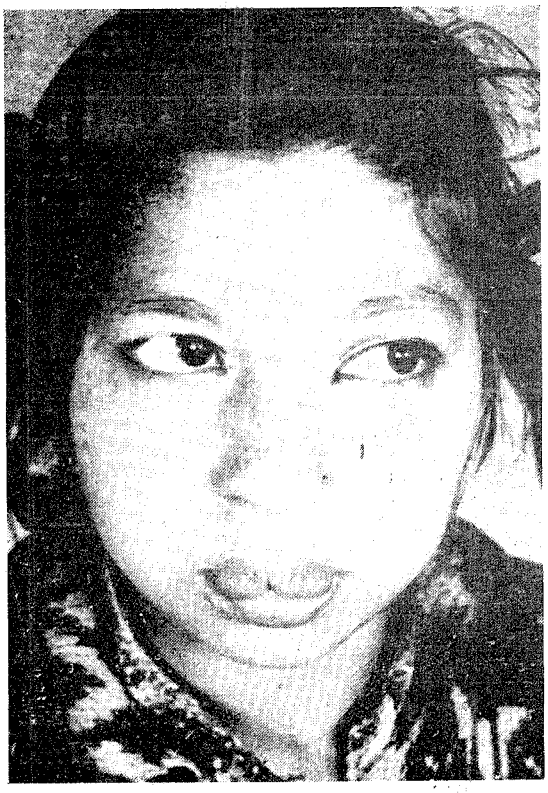
Since this condition is not amenable to any form of medical remedy, surgery remains the only modality of treatment.

Summary

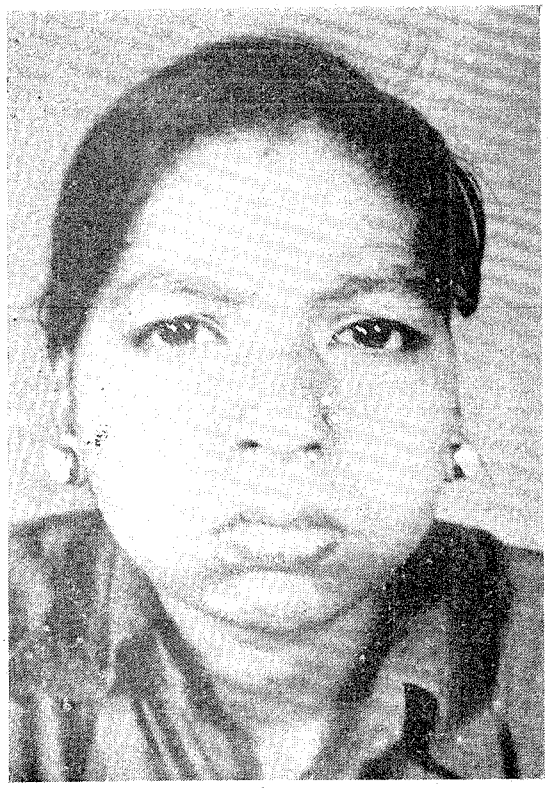
An uncommon case of congenital double upper lip and its treatment is presented.

References

1. Calnan, J. Congenital double lip : Record of a case with a note on the embryology. Br. J. Plast. Surg., **5** : 197, 1952.
2. Wang M. K. H. and Macomber, W. B. Reconstructive Plastic Surgery, Vol. three (2nd ed.), pp. 1543-44. 1977.



1. preoperative photograph showing double lip.



2. Postoperative photograph showing normal appearance of the lip.