

# World Journal of *Clinical Cases*

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## Adrenal ganglioneuroma: What you need to know

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### Abstract

Adrenal ganglioneuromas (GNs) constitute rare, differentiated tumors which originate from neural crest cells. GNs are usually hormonally silent and tend to be discovered incidentally on imaging tests. Adrenalectomy is the gold standard for the treatment of primary adrenal GNs. Nevertheless, preoperative differential diagnosis of GNs remains extremely challenging, and thus histopathological examination is required in order to confirm the diagnosis of GN. Overall, prognosis after surgical resection seems to be excellent, without any recurrences or need for adjuvant therapy.

**Key words:** Ganglioneuroma; Neurogenic tumors; Neural crest; Adrenalectomy

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**Core tip:** Adrenal ganglioneuromas (GNs) are uncommon, differentiated tumors which originate from neural crest cells. These lesions are usually discovered incidentally because they tend to be hormonally silent. Even though, surgery is the gold standard for the treatment of adrenal GNs, the process of preoperative differential diagnosis remains extremely challenging. Therefore, histologic examination is necessary in order to confirm this rare diagnosis. In general, there is no need for adjuvant treatment and the overall prognosis of these patients is excellent.

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## INTRODUCTION

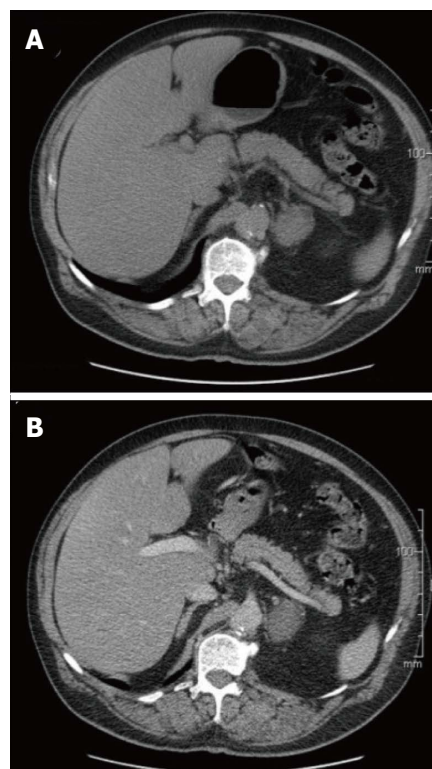
Ganglioneuromas (GNs) constitute rare, differentiated tumors which originate from neural crest cells<sup>[1]</sup>. As such, they are usually located in the retroperitoneal space (32%-52%) or in the posterior mediastinum (39%-43%). Less commonly, GNs can be seen in the cervical region (8%-9%) as well<sup>[2,3]</sup>. Interestingly enough, thoracic tumors have been found to be larger than non-thoracic ones at the time of diagnosis<sup>[4]</sup>. Adrenal GNs occur most frequently in the fourth and fifth decades of life, whereas GNs of the retroperitoneum and posterior mediastinum are usually encountered in children and younger adults. GNs seem to develop in females and males with equal rates; yet most of our data derive from case reports or small case series<sup>[5-7]</sup>. Nonetheless, a familial predisposition as well as an association with Turner syndrome and multiple endocrine neoplasia II have also been suggested<sup>[5]</sup>.

Commonly, adrenal GNs are hormonally silent and as a result can be asymptomatic; even when the lesion is of substantial size<sup>[5,8]</sup>. On the other hand, it has been reported that up to 30% of patients with GNs may have elevated plasma and urinary catecholamine levels, but without exhibiting any symptoms of catecholamine excess<sup>[4]</sup>. Additionally, it has been noted that ganglion cells can secrete vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP), whilst pluripotent precursor cells sometimes produce steroid hormones, such as cortisol and testosterone<sup>[9,10]</sup>.

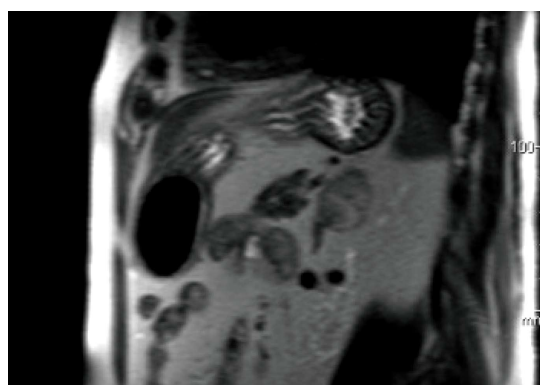
## IMAGING

Adrenal GNs are usually discovered incidentally due to the widespread use of computed tomography (Figure 1) and MRI (Figure 2) imaging techniques<sup>[2,11]</sup>. Particularly, GNs account for approximately 0.3%-2% of all adrenal incidentalomas<sup>[12-14]</sup>. In most cases, ultrasonography reveals a well-circumscribed, homogenous, hypo-echogenic lesion<sup>[15]</sup>. Furthermore, CT findings are usually compatible with a well-defined, lobular-shaped, solid, encapsulated mass. These tumors can be seen ranging from iso-attenuating to hypo-attenuating lesions compared to muscle signals<sup>[15]</sup>. Usually, the mass surrounds major blood vessels without imposing compression or occlusion<sup>[16]</sup>. Fine, punctate calcifications are found at a frequency ranging from 20% to 69% and are considered highly indicative of GNs<sup>[5,11]</sup>. On magnetic resonance imaging, T1-weighted images tend to have homogeneously low or intermediate signal, whereas T2-weighted images have heterogeneously intermediate or high signal<sup>[17]</sup>. Arguably, the latter is caused by the presence of the myxoid matrix along with a relatively low number of ganglion cells<sup>[18]</sup>. Furthermore, gadolinium administration can result in delayed and progressive enhancement of the lesion<sup>[8,15]</sup>.

In reality, the aforementioned radiology findings are not pathognomonic of adrenal GNs<sup>[15]</sup>. Particularly the preoperative misdiagnosis rate of adrenal GNs based on CT and MRI findings has been attested to be 64.7%<sup>[5]</sup>. Also, MIBG (131-metaiodobenzylguanidine) scintigraphy produces similar results in GNs, ganglioneuroblastomas

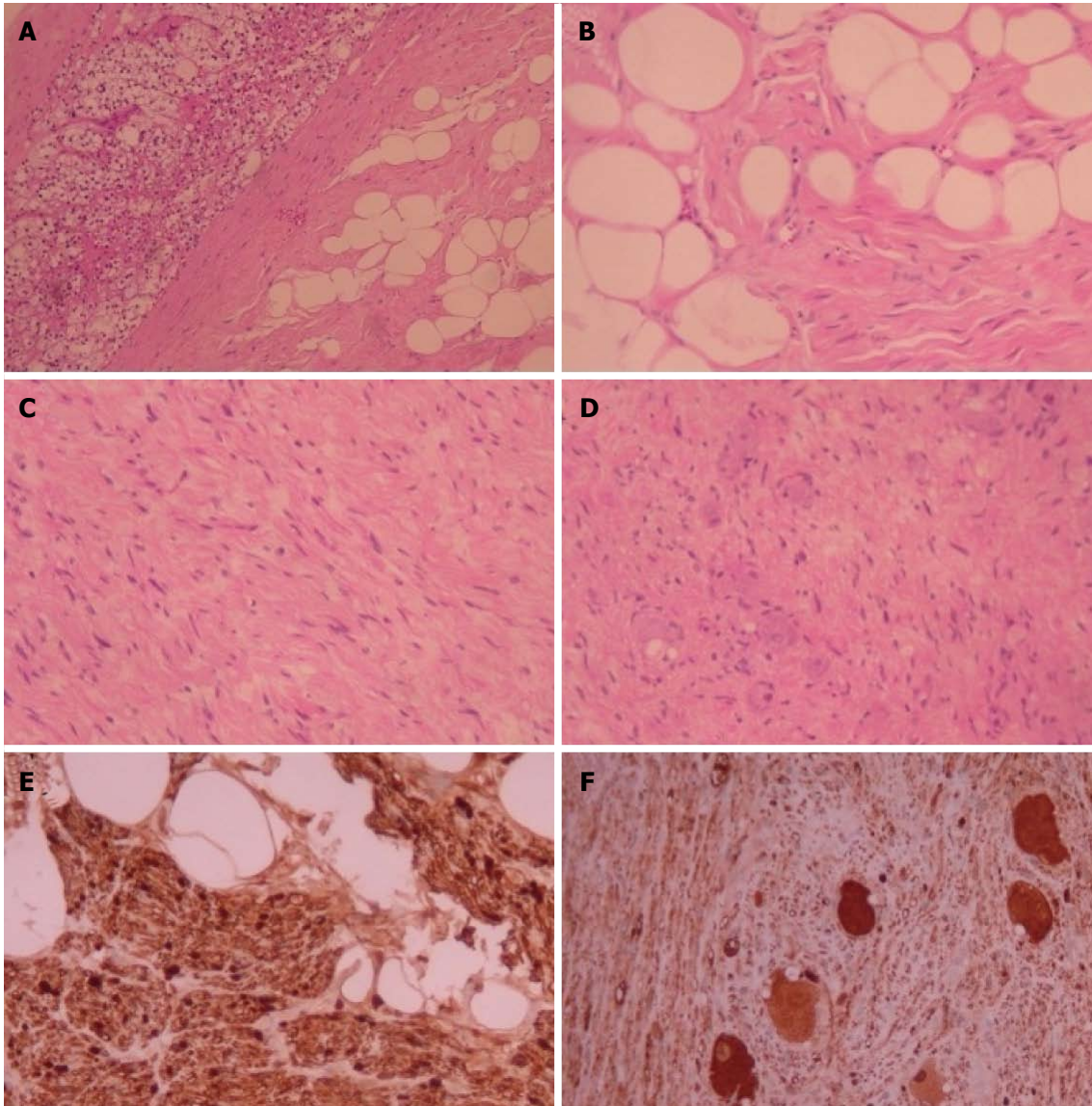


**Figure 1** Axial computed tomography of left adrenal ganglioneuroma: Well-defined, solid, encapsulated mass (in intravenous contrast). A: Non-enhanced image; B: Enhanced image (venous phase).



**Figure 2** Coronal magnetic resonance imaging of left adrenal ganglioneuroma: A coronal T1-weighted out-of-phase image shows intracellular lipid and no signal loss within the lesion.

and neuroblastomas<sup>[2,15]</sup>. Recently, PET scans have been proclaimed to facilitate the diagnostic process. Particularly, Standardized Uptake Value (SUV) of 3.0 or higher has been suggested to distinguish malignant from benign adrenal lesions with 100% sensitivity and 98% specificity<sup>[19]</sup>. However, Adas *et al.*<sup>[20]</sup> did report an adrenal GN with a SUV of 4.1 that was determined to be histologically benign. Taking everything into consideration, preoperative differential diagnosis of GNs remains extremely challenging and includes a variety of lesions, such as ganglioneuroblastoma, neuroblastoma, composite pheochromocytoma, adrenal cortical adenoma and adrenocortical carcinoma<sup>[2,21]</sup>.



**Figure 3** Histopathologic features of adrenal ganglioneuromas. A: Margin between adrenocortical parenchyma and adrenal ganglioneuroma with Schwann cells in adipose stroma (H and E  $\times$  100); B: Schwann cells in adipose stroma (H and E  $\times$  400); C: Schwann and ganglion cells in non-adipose stroma (H and E  $\times$  200); D: Schwann cells and multiple ganglion cells (H and E  $\times$  200); E: Protein S100 (+) Schwann cells (immunostaining  $\times$  400); F: Neuron-specific enolase (+) ganglion cells (immunostaining  $\times$  200). H and E: Hematoxylin and eosin.

## HISTOPATHOLOGIC FEATURES

Ultimately, histopathological examination is required in order to confirm the diagnosis of GN (Figure 3). In the vast majority of cases, GNs are histologically benign lesions GNs which can be classified into two main categories<sup>[4]</sup>. Firstly, "mature type" GNs comprise of mature Schwann cells, ganglion cells and perineural cells within a fibrous stroma whilst completely lacking neuroblasts and mitotic figures<sup>[8]</sup>. Secondly, "maturing type" GNs consist of similar cellular populations with miscellaneous maturation degrees, ranging from fully mature cells to neuroblasts. Nevertheless, detection of neuroblasts is typically indicative of neuroblastomas or ganglioneuroblastomas. These types of neurogenic tumors have the potential to evolve into GNs<sup>[15]</sup>. Characteristically, GNs exhibit immunohistochemical reactivity for specific markers such

as S-100, vimentin, synaptophysin and neuron-specific enolase<sup>[17]</sup>.

## GENETIC FEATURES

The tyrosine kinase receptor ERBB3 is one of the most commonly up-regulated genes in GNs<sup>[22]</sup>. Additionally, recent case series have found high expression of GATA3 in all of their GN tumors (100%) meaning that this may be a very reliable marker for GNs<sup>[23,24]</sup>. Lastly, the coexistence of GN with neuroblastoma has been associated with a hemizygous deletion of 11q14.1-23.3. Indeed, the predisposition to the development of neurogenic tumors may be attributed to the deletion of the *NCAM1* and *CADM1* genes which lie in 11q<sup>[25]</sup>. In contrast to neuroblastomas though, GNs do not seem to exhibit MYCN gene amplifications<sup>[4]</sup>.

## MANAGEMENT

Last but not least, literature is consistent with the fact that when dealing with large (> 6 cm) adrenal incidentalomas there is a 25% probability of the lesion being an adrenocortical carcinoma. Georger *et al*<sup>[4]</sup> described local lymph node involvement in two GN patients and one case of distant metastasis to soft tissues in their 49-patient case series. Nonetheless, malignant GNs remain extremely rare occurrences<sup>[21]</sup>. Ultimately, surgery constitutes the gold standard for the treatment of primary adrenal GNs<sup>[4,26]</sup>. Even though, laparoscopic adrenalectomy is usually the procedure of choice, a number of variables (*e.g.*, hormonal activity, tumor location, and proximity to adjacent structures) also need to be taken into account when deciding on the best approach to operate on these rare tumors<sup>[24]</sup>. Of note, wide excisions are unnecessary since adrenal GNs rarely metastasize or recur. Postoperatively, there is no need for adjuvant therapy in patients with adrenal GNs and their prognosis is excellent<sup>[4,21]</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

Adrenal GNs are uncommon, differentiated tumors which originate from neural crest cells. These lesions are usually discovered incidentally and tend to be hormonally silent. Even though, adrenalectomy is the gold standard for the treatment of adrenal GNs, the process of preoperative differential diagnosis remains extremely challenging. Ultimately, histologic examination is necessary in order to confirm this rare diagnosis. Postoperatively, there is no need for adjuvant treatment and the overall prognosis of these patients is excellent.

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## Hydrogen peroxide ingestion with injury to upper gastrointestinal tract

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### Abstract

Hydrogen peroxide is a common over-the-counter solution that has developed a growing body of literature regarding toxic ingestion. Intentional ingestion of high concentration hydrogen peroxide for health purposes has gained popularity in certain patient populations; purported benefits are due to the increased oxygen released into the blood stream. We present for evaluation one such case with associated imaging that presented to our urban medical center. A brief review of the literature was also performed noting current recommendations regarding both outcomes and indications for endoscopy as well as hyperbaric oxygen therapy following ingestion of hydrogen peroxide. Our patient was a 51-year-old white female who presented with foamy hematemesis after ingesting 10 drops of 35% hydrogen peroxide as part of a home remedy to cleanse her colon and improve blood oxygenation. In addition to hematemesis, she also reported diffuse abdominal pain with sore throat and hoarse voice. Her imaging demonstrated portal venous gas and gastric edema. She was admitted for hyperbaric oxygen therapy and underwent upper endoscopy demonstrating diffuse esophagitis and gastritis with white exudate and multiple petechiae. She was later discharged home in stable condition and was lost to follow-up.

**Key words:** Hydrogen peroxide; Caustic injury; Hyperbaric oxygen therapy; Ingestion of hydrogen peroxide; Arterial gas emboli

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**Core tip:** In patients presenting with unresolving epigastric and hematemesis following ingestion of hydrogen peroxide, evaluation with endoscopy is indicated. Computed tomography and/or magnetic resonance imaging are also indicated to evaluate for formation of arterial gas emboli. Therapy is primarily supportive, ± hyperbaric oxygen therapy depending on presence of neurological symptoms, presence of gas emboli, and

availability of resources.

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## INTRODUCTION

Hydrogen peroxide is a common over-the-counter solution that has developed a growing body of literature regarding toxic ingestion<sup>[1-5]</sup>. The main mechanisms for toxicity include direct lipid peroxidation, oxygen gas production, and corrosive injury<sup>[1]</sup>. Reported toxicities and fatalities tend to involve higher concentrations (> 35%) and pediatric patients<sup>[1]</sup>.

Intentional ingestion of high concentration hydrogen peroxide for health purposes has gained popularity in certain patient populations; purported benefits are due to the increased oxygen released into the blood stream. We present for evaluation one such case with associated imaging.

## CASE REPORT

A 51-year-old white female presented to our urban medical center with foamy hematemesis after ingesting 10 drops of 35% hydrogen peroxide as part of a home remedy to cleanse her colon and improve blood oxygenation. In addition to hematemesis, she also reported diffuse abdominal pain with sore throat and hoarse voice.

At the time of presentation, vitals were normal and stable. Her initial abdominal exam was benign and she was neurologically intact. Labs were within normal limits save for a leukocytosis of 12.6 thousand/mm<sup>3</sup>. CT imaging obtained at admission demonstrated portal venous gas, gastric pneumatosis, and gastric edema (Figure 1). She was given a proton-pump inhibitor and admitted for hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBT) to be followed by upper endoscopy evaluation.

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy performed the following morning revealed a small hiatal hernia, diffuse esophagitis and gastritis with white exudate and multiple petechiae, and two areas of duodenitis (Figures 2 and 3). Gastric biopsies later demonstrated only active, chronic gastritis with marked congestion and extravasated blood. Following her endoscopy and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, patient tolerated a liquid diet and was deemed stable for discharge home later that day. Patient was lost to follow-up.

## DISCUSSION

Mortality associated with hydrogen peroxide ingestion



Figure 1 Computed tomography abdomen demonstrating portal venous gas as well as gastric pneumatosis and edema (portal venous gas and gastric pneumatosis noted with white arrows, gastric edema noted with red arrow).

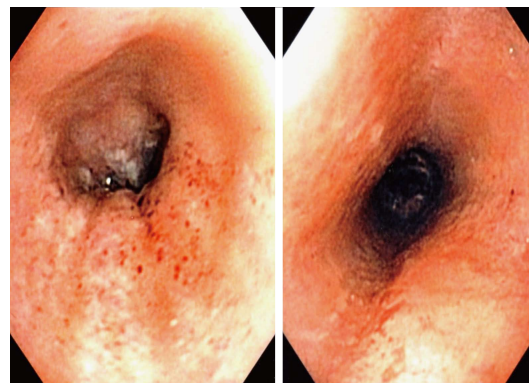
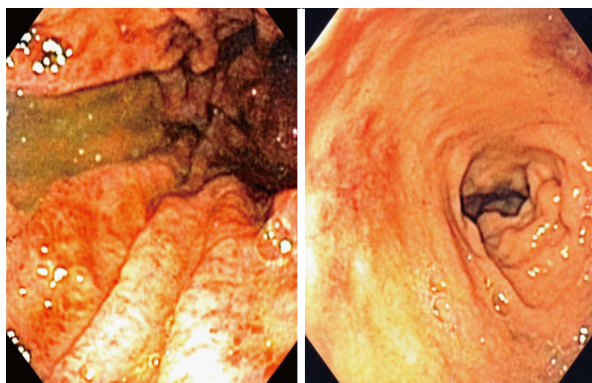


Figure 2 Esophagogastroduodenoscopy demonstrating esophagitis with multiple petechiae and white exudate.

usually involves the formation of arterial gas emboli (AGE) and the development of cerebral embolism<sup>[1-3]</sup>. Perforation may occur, but is not as commonly described as AGE. The most common injury noted on upper endoscopy following ingestion is a Grade I caustic mucosal injury which tends to resolve spontaneously without further sequelae<sup>[6]</sup>. The "snow-white" sign may be visualized, an area of mucosa that has a blanched appearance secondary to blood being driven away by rapid oxygen production; this is demonstrated on our endoscopic image (Figure 2 left panel)<sup>[1]</sup>.

Management of hydrogen peroxide ingestion consists



**Figure 3** Esophagogastroduodenoscopy demonstrating diffuse gastritis (Left) and areas of duodenitis (Right).

mainly of supportive care and endoscopic evaluation if hematemesis or unresolving epigastric pain develops, typically in association with concentrated doses<sup>[1]</sup>. CT/MRI imaging is indicated to evaluate for formation of AGE, especially with the development of neurological symptoms. HBT has been shown to be helpful in such cases and is generally associated with complete resolution of symptoms; delayed therapy may contribute to mortality<sup>[2-4]</sup>.

While neurological symptoms are definitive indications for HBT, its role in the presence of portal venous gas is still being evaluated<sup>[2,3]</sup>. Several centers with ready access to HBT have suggested that the mere presence of portal venous gas indicates need for HBT. While it would seem a prudent measure to prevent further progression of gas emboli, a case report does exist of conservatively managed portal venous gas without HBT and without subsequent negative sequelae<sup>[7]</sup>.

## COMMENTS

### Case characteristics

The patient presented with epigastric pain, foamy hematemesis, sore throat, and hoarseness.

### Clinical diagnosis

Physical exam demonstrated a benign abdomen and no neurological deficits.

### Differential diagnosis

Presentation concerning for perforation of gastrointestinal tract with possible arterial gas emboli, evaluated by computed tomography and esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD).

### Laboratory diagnosis

Electrolytes and complete blood count obtained demonstrating only leukocytosis of 12.6 thousand/mm<sup>3</sup>.

### Imaging diagnosis

Computed tomography abdomen demonstrated portal venous gas, gastric pneumatosis, and gastric edema.

### Pathological diagnosis

Gastric biopsy demonstrated active, chronic gastritis with marked congestion and extravasated blood.

### Treatment

Patient was kept NPO; treated with IV fluids, a proton-pump inhibitor, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy; and evaluated by EGD.

### Related reports

EGD demonstrated a small hiatal hernia, diffuse esophagitis and gastritis with white exudate and multiple petechiae, and two areas of duodenitis.

### Experiences and lessons

Hydrogen peroxide ingestion generally requires conservative management and may benefit from hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

### Peer-review

The authors demonstrated a case of 51-year-old white female presented to our urban medical center with foamy hematemesis after ingesting 10 drops of 35% hydrogen peroxide. The present study was well investigated and will give us an important information in the field of clinical gastroenterology.

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E- Editor: Lu YJ





## Juvenile hemochromatosis: *HAMP* mutation and severe iron overload treated with phlebotomies and deferasirox

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**Author contributions:** Lescano MA, Tavares LC and Santos PCJL make substantial contributions to conception and design of the case report, acquisition, analysis, and interpretation of data; all authors participate in drafting the article and revising it critically for important intellectual content.

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**Conflict-of-interest statement:** The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in this study.

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### Abstract

Juvenile hemochromatosis (JH) is a rare condition classified as an autosomal recessive disorder that leads to severe iron absorption. JH usually affects people under the age of 30 and presents symptoms such as chronic liver damage, hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, cardiac diseases and endocrine dysfunctions. The present case reports a 29-year-old Brazilian woman with JH condition due to *HAMP* mutation (g.47G>A), treated with phlebotomies and deferasirox. She presented symptoms such as weakness, skin hyperpigmentation, joint pain in the shoulders and hands and amenorrhea. First laboratory tests showed altered biochemical parameters [serum ferritin (SF): 5696 ng/mL, transferrin saturation (TS): 85%]. After sessions of phlebotomies (450 mL every 15 d), the patient presented partial symptomatic improvements and biochemical parameters (SF: 1000 ng/mL, Hb: 11 g/dL). One year later, deferasirox (15 mg/kg per day) was introduced to the treatment, and the patient showed total symptomatic improvement, with significant clearing of the skin, SF: 169 ng/mL, and TS: 50%. Furthermore, after the combined deferasirox-phlebotomy therapy, magnetic resonance imaging measurements revealed normalized level for liver iron (30  $\mu$ mol/g; reference value < 36  $\mu$ mol/g). In conclusion, combined deferasirox-phlebotomy treatment was able to normalize iron levels and improve symptoms.

**Key words:** Genetic disease; Juvenile hemochromatosis; *HAMP* gene; Mutation; Iron chelation

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**Core tip:** A 29-year-old Brazilian woman, from a city in the countryside of the State of Bahia, Brazil, was referred to our service in 2015 because of a hepatomegaly clinical condition, detected by imaging exam. This case study reports a patient with juvenile hemochromatosis condition due to *HAMP* mutation (g.47G>A) treated with phlebotomies and deferasirox, which were able to normalize iron levels and improve symptoms.

Lescano MA, Tavares LC, Santos PCJL. Juvenile hemochromatosis: *HAMP* mutation and severe iron overload treated with phlebotomies and deferasirox. *World J Clin Cases* 2017; 5(10): 381-383 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/full/v5/i10/381.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12998/wjcc.v5.i10.381>

## INTRODUCTION

Juvenile hemochromatosis (JH), also known as type 2 hemochromatosis, is a rare condition classified as an autosomal recessive disorder that leads to severe iron absorption. JH usually affects people under the age of 30 and presents symptoms such as chronic liver damage, hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, cardiac diseases and endocrine dysfunctions. JH is subdivided into two groups: Type 2A (associated to *HJV* - hemojuvelin gene mutation) and type 2B (associated to *HAMP* - hepcidin gene mutation). Both genes are involved in the production of hepcidin, a peptide that regulates iron homeostasis by adjusting its absorption and storage. *HJV* and *HAMP* mutations, therefore, lead to decreased hepcidin levels, and consequently to iron overload in the body<sup>[1-3]</sup>.

## CASE REPORT

A 29-year-old Brazilian woman, from a city in the countryside of the State of Bahia, Brazil, was referred to our service in 2015 because of a hepatomegaly clinical condition, detected by imaging exam. In the anamnesis, symptoms such as weakness, skin hyperpigmentation and joint pain in the shoulders and hands were observed. The patient had reported amenorrhea since she was 25 years old, whereas transvaginal ultrasound showed uterus and ovaries were not developed. She also reported that her father died before the age of 50 because of non-alcoholic cirrhosis and diabetes. Furthermore, one of her three brothers, who was 31 years old, died because of the same reported father diseases. The patient's other two brothers, on the other hand, are healthy.

The patient's first laboratory tests results were: Serum ferritin (SF) of 5696 ng/mL, transferrin saturation (TS) of 85%, hemoglobin (Hb) of 13.3 g/dL, international normalized ratio of 1.3, aspartate transaminase of 91 U/L, alanine transaminase of 69 U/L, alkaline phosphatase of 288 U/L, gamma-glutamyl transferase of 84 U/L, blood glucose of 72 mg/dL, creatinine of 0.7 mg/dL and albumin of 4.3 g/dL. Her echocardiogram was normal

and secondary causes of iron overload (hepatitis, chronic hemolysis, oral or parenteral iron overload, metabolic syndrome and alcohol abuse) were excluded. Genetic analysis for mutations in the *HFE* gene (p.C282Y, p.H63D and p.S65C) revealed a heterozygous genotype for the p.H63D. Taking in account the patient's age and the absence of relevant genetic alteration for hereditary hemochromatosis (HH), the *HJV* (exons 1-4) and *HAMP* (exons 1-3) genes were sequenced<sup>[4]</sup>, as iron overload in a young individual who presents endocrine dysfunctions is suggestive of a JH diagnosis. The *HAMP* sequencing revealed the homozygous genotype for the mutation 5'-UTR G>A at position +14 (g.47G>A), confirming the prior suspicion.

In January 2015, the patient started phlebotomies of 450 mL every 15 d. After 12 mo of treatment, there was partial improvement of weakness, skin hyperpigmentation and joint pain symptoms. In addition, the hemoglobin level was never below 11 g/dL and, despite an observed decrease in ferritin level, the values were always above 1000 ng/mL. In January 2016, deferasirox (15 mg/kg per day) was introduced to the treatment, concomitantly with the phlebotomies. No side effects were observed and the serum creatinine values remained normal. In September 2016, the patient showed total symptomatic improvement, with significant clearing of the skin, SF values of 169 ng/mL and TS of 50%. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Hospital das Clínicas (HC) of University of Sao Paulo Medical School (FMUSP), Brazil, and consent was obtained from the participants prior to entering the study.

## DISCUSSION

When compared with *HFE*-hemochromatosis, the frequency of the JH condition with *HAMP* gene mutation is considered very rare. However, some cases were reported<sup>[5,6]</sup>. Here, we report one case of a Brazilian patient with JH condition due to *HAMP* mutation (g.47G>A), first identified in a Portuguese family<sup>[7]</sup>. She presented significant improvement of symptoms through combined treatment with deferasirox and phlebotomies.

Phlebotomy is the choice treatment for hemochromatosis. However, iron chelator has been suggested as an alternative treatment option for iron overload, especially when patients have severe iron overload, did not have tolerance to phlebotomies or where it is contraindicated. The dose used in the present case report was previously evaluated in hemochromatosis patients<sup>[8]</sup>. Cançado *et al*<sup>[9]</sup> (2015) evaluated the efficacy and effectiveness of deferasirox (doses of 5-10 mg/kg per day) for treatment of hemochromatosis patients. They showed that chelation was safe and effective<sup>[9]</sup>.

It is possible to estimate the quantity of liver iron removed using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) measurements (given as mg of Fe/g of liver). Santos *et al*<sup>[10]</sup> (2010) performed a study that measured liver iron concentration before and after combined deferasirox-

phlebotomy treatment. They observed that approximately two-thirds (5.55 g) of the iron removed from the liver could be attributed to the action of deferasirox<sup>[10]</sup>. In the present case, however, we were not able to perform MRI measurements before and after inclusion of the deferasirox as an adjuvant. Nevertheless, we estimated that phlebotomies were able to remove approximately 8.0 g of liver iron (40 phlebotomies and about 200 mg Fe/phlebotomy) in 20 mo. After this period of combined therapy, the MRI showed normal value for liver iron of 30  $\mu\text{mol/g}$  (reference value < 36  $\mu\text{mol/g}$ ).

In conclusion, combined deferasirox-phlebotomy treatment was able to promote decrease and normalization of iron levels, besides significant symptomatic improvements.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We mostly thank the participants of the study. We are also thankful for the technical assistance provided by the staff of the Laboratory of Genetics and Molecular Cardiology, Heart Institute (InCor).

## COMMENTS

### Case characteristics

A 29-year-old Brazilian woman, with non-alcoholic cirrhosis and diabetes in the familiar medical history, presented symptoms such as weakness, skin hyperpigmentation, joint pain in the shoulders and hands and amenorrhoea.

### Clinical diagnosis

HAMP sequencing indicated juvenile hemochromatosis (JH) condition due to g.47G>A mutation.

### Differential diagnosis

Patient's age (29) and absence of relevant genetic alteration for hereditary hemochromatosis (HH) led to sequencing of *HJV* (exons 1-4) and *HAMP* (exons 1-3) genes, as iron overload in a young individual who presents endocrine dysfunctions is suggestive of a JH diagnosis.

### Laboratory diagnosis

Laboratory tests indicated altered iron biochemical parameters: SF = 5696 ng/mL and TS = 85%.

### Treatment

Patient's treatment was performed with phlebotomies (450 mL every 15 d) for 20 mo, and the iron chelator deferasirox (15 mg/kg per day) was introduced as adjuvant in the last 8 mo of treatment.

### Related reports

The dose used in the present case report was previously evaluated in hemochromatosis patients. Cançado *et al* (2015) evaluated the efficacy and effectiveness of deferasirox (doses of 5-10 mg/kg per day) for treatment of hemochromatosis patients. They showed that chelation was safe and effective. Besides that, Santos *et al* (2010) performed a study that measured liver iron concentration before and after combined deferasirox-phlebotomy treatment.

They observed that approximately two-thirds (5.55 g) of the iron removed from the liver could be attributed to the action of deferasirox.

## Experiences and lessons

Phlebotomy is the choice treatment for hemochromatosis. However, iron chelator has been suggested as an alternative treatment option for iron overload, especially when patients have severe iron overload, did not have tolerance to phlebotomies or where it is contraindicated.

## Peer-review

In the present case, we have reported a clinical case of a patient with a very rare disorder: juvenile hemochromatosis due to HAMP mutation (g.47G>A). The authors presented a successful combined therapy for the iron overload and symptoms caused by the JH condition, performed with the conventional phlebotomies and the iron chelator deferasirox as an adjuvant.

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## Prosthodontic management of hemimandibulectomy patients to restore form and function - A case series

Deenadayalan Lingeshwar, Rajendran Appadurai, Ujjayanthi Sswedheni, Challa Padmaja

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### Abstract

Surgical resection of mandible owing to benign, malignant neoplasm, osteoradionecrosis is common. The resection can be total or segmental depending on the lesion. Loss of mandibular continuity causes deviation of remaining mandibular segment towards the resected side and rotation inferiorly due to muscle pull and scar contracture affecting mastication and esthetics. Surgical reconstruction may not be always possible. Prosthetic rehabilitation plays a major role in these patients. This case series describes different types of guiding flange (GF) prosthesis with modifications for three hemimandibulectomy patients at different time interval after surgery. The article details GF prosthesis combined with physiotherapy to correct deviation of mandible thereby improving mastication, esthetics and speech and thus enhancing the quality of life.

**Key words:** Hemimandibulectomy; Mandibular deviation; Guiding flange prosthesis; Palatal ramp

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**Core tip:** Mandible is a significant structure in lower third of face constituting to esthetics and functions like speech, swallowing and mastication. Surgical resection owing to various reasons disrupts these functions. Both form and function should be considered in rehabilitating hemimandibulectomy patients. This article describes prosthetic rehabilitation that comprises of different types of guiding flange prosthesis with modifications for three hemimandibulectomy patients at different time interval after surgery.

Lingeshwar D, Appadurai R, Sswedheni U, Padmaja C. Prosthodontic management of hemimandibulectomy patients to restore form and function - A case series. *World J Clin Cases* 2017; 5(10): 384-389 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/full/v5/>

## INTRODUCTION

Mandible is a significant structure in lower third of face constituting to function and esthetics. It is a single bone that creates peripheral boundaries of the floor of the mouth, facial form (lower third), speech, swallowing, mastication and respiration. Disruption of mandible due to trauma, surgical resection for benign and malignant neoplasm disrupts any of these functions. Both form and function should be considered in rehabilitating hemimandibulectomy patients. Loss of mandibular continuity causes deviation of the remaining mandibular segments towards the defect and rotation of the mandibular occlusal plane inferiorly due to muscle pull and scar contracture. Mandibulectomy with radical neck dissection increases this deviation. This results in facial disfigurement, loss of occlusal contact, in many cases, loss of lip competency for saliva control and to initiate the swallowing process<sup>[1]</sup>. Literature shows techniques to correct mandibular deviation that can vary from intermaxillary fixation with elastics, palatal or mandibular guiding flange (GF) prosthesis anchored on natural teeth or the dental flange<sup>[2]</sup>. The GF is probably the simplest and most useful in maintaining position of the remaining jaw<sup>[3]</sup>. This article describes different types of GF prosthesis with modifications for three hemimandibulectomy patients at different time interval after surgery.

## CASE REPORT

### Case report 1

A 36 years old male patient was referred to the hospital with the history of carcinoma left buccal mucosa for which he underwent hemimandibulectomy and modified radical neck dissection one month back and reconstructed with pectoralis major myocutaneous flap. Patient complained of difficulty in mastication and speech.

Extra oral examination revealed facial asymmetry and deviation of mandible towards the resected site and the deviation increased on opening the mouth. The mouth opening was reduced to 25 mm. Intra oral examination revealed partially edentulous mandible and loss of occlusal contact (Figure 1). The mandibular defect was classified as Cantor and Curtis Class II that is lateral resection of the mandible distal to cuspid<sup>[4]</sup>. It was noted that mandible can be guided to centric occlusion manually but the patient could not achieve this position consistently on his own. So the treatment objective was to correct the deviation of mandible and to restore proper occlusion for mastication.

Impressions were made with modified stainless steel stock tray and irreversible hydrocolloid (Tropicalgin, IDS DENMED Pvt. Ltd.) followed by pouring cast with



Figure 1 Midline shift and loss of occlusal contact.

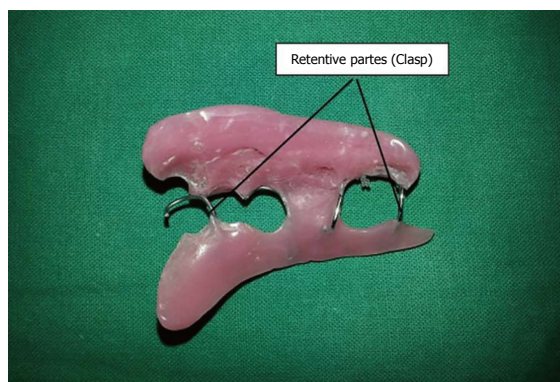


Figure 2 Mandibular guiding flange prosthesis.

Type III Dental stone (Goldstone, mfg. by ASIAN CHEMICALS). Interocclusal record was made with modelling wax (the Hindustan dental products) by asking the patient to move the mandible away from resected site as far as possible and manually guiding the mandible to centric occlusion. This record was transferred to a mean value articulator. Three clasps were made using 21 gauge wire - "C" clasp on canine and premolar; adams clasp on molar for retention purpose. Considering the amount of deviation and reduced mouth opening, mandibular GF prosthesis was fabricated on the nondefect side using autopolymerising acrylic resin (DPI Cold Cure pink; Dental products of India). After applying sufficient separating medium, the resin was added on buccal and lingual aspect of nondefect side of mandible and on the buccal side the extension was till the maxillary buccal vestibule. The prosthesis was tried in patient mouth and checked for retention and stability. It was trimmed and adjusted so that the mandible is guided to centric occlusion without delivering excessive force to maxillary teeth. Acrylic resin was added little by little to the guide flange until there was smooth guidance of the mandible to proper occlusion without any interference. The prosthesis was finished and polished (Figure 2). After insertion of the prosthesis, midline coincided and occlusion was achieved (Figure 3). The patient was advised to use the GF throughout the day except at night and during



Figure 3 Correction of deviation after insertion of the prosthesis.



Figure 5 Occlusion contacts established with prosthesis.



Figure 4 Palatal guiding flange prosthesis.

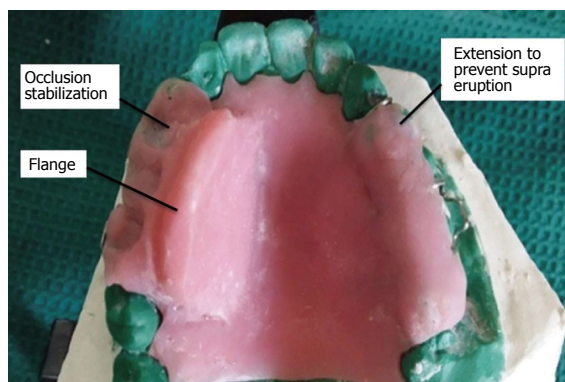


Figure 6 Palatal guiding flange prosthesis with functionally generated acrylic occlusal table on non-resected site and stabilization ramp for resected side.

meals. Physiotherapy exercises were also insisted. It included maximum mouth opening and grasping the chin to move the mandible away from surgical side. This will help in reducing trismus, minimize scar contracture and improve occlusion<sup>[1]</sup>. Review after a month, there was trivial reduction in the deviation. Hence, palatal GF prosthesis was made which wouldn't affect esthetics.

### Case report 2

A 49 years old male patient presented to the hospital with the complaint of difficulty in mastication and facial disfigurement for the past three years owing to carcinoma left buccal mucosa for which he underwent composite resection of mandible and reconstructed with Pectoralis major myocutaneous flap following preoperative chemotherapy and radiotherapy. On clinical examination, there was deviation of remaining mandible towards the resected site and also downward rotation of mandible. It was noted that intermaxillary fixation was not done at the time of surgery. The mandibular defect was classified as Cantor and Curtis type III<sup>[4]</sup>. Since it was resected till the midline the deviation and downward rotation of mandible was more due to loss of muscular support. The mouth opening was 35 mm. Intra oral examination revealed generalized attrition, supraeruption and partially edentulous mandible. Patient was able to bring remaining mandible to centric occlusion with guidance and he was not able to achieve

this position consistently. Since mouth opening was normal compared to previous case, an acrylic GF on maxilla was planned as interim prosthesis.

Impression, cast, interocclusal record and articulation were made following the same procedure as in case report 1. Palatal GF prosthesis was planned for this case considering the stability of prosthesis, esthetics, occlusion and downward rotation of mandible. The guide flange extended till the lingual sulcus on the nondefect side. The prosthesis was tried in patient mouth. The inclination of the guide flange was adjusted until it guided the mandible to centric occlusion (Figure 4). But as both maxillary and mandibular teeth were attrited, functional cusps were worn out. The mandibular teeth glided beyond centric occlusion. To prevent this and to train the patient in centric occlusion, the acrylic resin was extended on the palatal cusps of maxillary teeth. A functionally generated path was recorded and an occlusal table was fabricated accordingly so as to stabilize the occlusion. The occlusal table was also extended on the maxillary teeth of defect side to prevent supraeruption as there were no opposing teeth (Figures 5 and 6). The patient was recalled after a month for review.

### Case report 3

A 35 years old male patient came to the hospital with



Figure 7 Note the midline before and after insertion of the prosthesis.

the history of hemimandibulectomy and left maxillary alveolectomy reconstructed with masseter flap done two weeks ago owing to carcinoma left buccal mucosa. Mouth opening was noted as 30 mm. It was noted that the deviation of mandible towards the resected side was minimum as the surgery was done only two weeks ago. If intervention with the GF was not done at this time, the deviation would worsen on healing process and scar formation. The procedure of impression making, cast, interocclusal record and articulation as in case report 1 was done. As the deviation was minimum, palatal GF prosthesis was planned for this case. As opposing teeth were present in the mandibular arch, the risk of supraeruption is nil. The prosthesis extended till the lingual sulcus on palatal non resected side. The prosthesis was tried in patient mouth and trimmed accordingly (Figure 7). The patient was able to guide the mandible into pre-existing occlusion (Figure 8). The patient was advised to wear the flange at all times except while eating and during nights and was asked to review after one week.

## DISCUSSION

Segmental resection of mandible results in deviation of remaining segment towards the resected side due to uncompensated influence of contralateral musculature, particularly the internal pterygoid muscle. If this influence is uncompensated, the contraction of cicatricial tissue will fix the residual fragment in its deviated position<sup>[5]</sup>. The rotation of residual mandible in



Figure 8 Mandibular first molar contacting the palatal ramp that guides the mandible to occlusion.

an inferior direction is caused by the pull of suprahyoid musculature and gravity due to loss of anchorage of elevator muscles<sup>[1]</sup>. The pathway of closure in a lateral resection of mandible starts from its medial, retruded position and closes in an upward diagonal manner into an occlusion which may or may not correspond with the patient's preoperative occlusion<sup>[6]</sup>. The amount of deviation and downward rotation depends on the extent of tissue loss. The more the mandible remaining, the better is the prosthetic prognosis. Retention of mandibular cuspids is especially beneficial<sup>[4]</sup>.

The basic objective in rehabilitation is retraining the remaining mandibular muscles to provide an acceptable maxillo-mandibular relationship of the remaining portion of the mandible<sup>[7]</sup>. This would permit occlusion of remaining natural teeth or control of residual edentulous segments to provide for the reasonable placement and acceptable occlusion of the artificial teeth<sup>[7]</sup>. There are four significant factors that affect rehabilitation: The location and extent of surgery, the effect of radiation therapy, the presence or absence of teeth and the psychological aspect<sup>[6]</sup>.

The time of initiation of the treatment is the key to success for restoring the form and function. The deviation after hemimandibulectomy will be difficult to correct after the healing phase of 6 to 8 wk due to scar contracture and the muscles adapting to this cicatricial tissue<sup>[1]</sup>. Patients usually have trismus following the surgery which will be a challenge for making an impression of maxilla and mandible. Hence preoperative casts should be advocated for all patients so that exact maxillo-mandibular relationship can be obtained postoperatively. Intermaxillary fixation can be advocated at time of surgery but for dressings and irrigation, it would be more advantageous to enable the patient to open and close the mouth. Temporary retainers can be made preoperatively so that it can immediately placed after surgery<sup>[8]</sup>. Robinson stated that temporary acrylic GF can be inserted on the third postoperative day<sup>[5]</sup>. In the above cases intermaxillary fixation was not done at the time of surgery and preoperative impressions were not made as they were referred only after surgery.

**Table 1 Protocol for guiding flange**

Based on time of referral		
1	Before surgery - 1 wk post-surgery	Intermaxillary fixation done with elastics
2	1 wk post-surgery - 1 mo	GF prosthesis and Physiotherapy
3	1 mo - 1 yr	Active physiotherapy, Counseling followed by GF prosthesis
4	> 1 yr	Surgical intervention
Based on amount of tissue resected		
1	Amount of hard and soft tissue	Directly influences success and difficulty in rehabilitation
2	Segmental resection of mandible distal to cuspid	Maxillary or Mandibular GF
2	Segmental resection of mandible that involves canine	Maxillary GF is the choice as the loss of mandibular canine results in more downward rotation of mandible and the mandibular GF might not be stable
Types of prosthesis		
1	Acrylic GF	Immediately after surgery and as training prosthesis
2	Definitive Cast metal GF	One year after training prosthesis
Modifications		
1	To prevent supraeruption	Occlusal table on Maxillary teeth on defect side
2	To stabilize occlusion	Functionally generated occlusal table on Maxillary teeth on nondefect side
	Intervention	Prognosis
1	From the time of planning and surgery	Better
2	Long time interval after surgery	Guarded

GF: Guiding flange.

Physiotherapy is recommended to reduce trismus and to loosen scar contracture. Without this, masticatory ability may decrease and lateral movement toward the nonresected side may not be possible<sup>[9]</sup>. It must be started two weeks postoperatively. Patient is asked to gently push the mandible away from the defect toward more normal position. While holding mandible in position, the patient should open the mouth as wide as possible to stretch the musculature at the resection site<sup>[1,4]</sup>. In all the three cases, physiotherapy was insisted.

Various literature shows different techniques for managing the deviation that include cast metal guidance prosthesis which is more technique sensitive, time consuming, expensive and require more number of patient visits. Acrylic GF is comparatively simple in design, cost effective, less patient visit and more importantly the ease of adjustability<sup>[10]</sup>.

A common complaint without such an appliance is pain in the remaining temporomandibular joint which results from the abnormal position of the condyle<sup>[8]</sup>. Definitive treatment of these patients takes at least a year from the date of surgery as definitive treatment requires complete healing and no recurrence of cancer. Till then the acrylic GF prosthesis can be used as a training device for mandibular movements and to avoid further complications.

In the cases presented above, acrylic GF was used as a training prosthesis. Out of three patients, one patient was referred immediately after surgery, one patient five years after surgery and other patient one month after surgery. In the first and third case report, resection was distal to canine. The amount of deviation was more in the first patient as the patient reported one month after surgery, mandibular GF was given for a period of three weeks later replaced with maxillary GF. The amount of

deviation was trivial in the third patient as he reported one week following surgery, maxillary GF was given. In the second case report, the downward rotation of mandible was significant as the resection involved mandibular canine. For this case, maxillary GF was given with functionally generated occlusal table on non-defect side. For all the three patients, physiotherapy was insisted along with the insertion of GF. The patients had pain only due to scar contractures and deviation leading to pain on mandibular movements. This was addressed by correcting the deviation, and trying to maintain a stable occlusion. Guideline for GF is listed in Table 1.

Rehabilitation is an essential phase of cancer care and should be considered from the time of diagnosis in a complete and comprehensive treatment plan. The primary objective is restoration of function and appearance. GF prosthesis serves both the purpose. This article gives a comprehensive explanation about rehabilitation procedures carried out for three patients who were surgically treated for carcinoma with hemimandibulectomy and neck dissection.

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## COMMENTS

### Case characteristics

All three cases complained of difficulty in mastication and facial disfigurement following hemimandibulectomy reconstructed with flap.



### Clinical diagnosis

All three cases showed deviation of mandible towards the resected site, loss of lip competency and occlusal contact and reduced mouth opening.

### Treatment

Guiding flange (GF) prosthesis to correct deviation of mandible and to stabilise occlusion enhancing mastication and esthetics.

### Term explanation

GF prosthesis guides the remaining mandible to proper and stable occlusion and trains the mandibular movements after hemimandibulectomy.

### Experiences and lessons

The time of initiation of treatment is the key to success. A common complaint without such prosthesis is pain in temporomandibular joint. This GF prosthesis alleviates pain and can be used as training device for mandibular movements after surgery.

### Peer-review

This is a well written manuscript exposing the experience of the authors in such particular field.

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