



# Complications of orofacial harmonization

## *Complicações da harmonização orofacial*

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We read, with great enthusiasm, the article “Complications in orofacial harmonization procedures: a systematic review” by Manganaro et al. (2022)<sup>1</sup>, published in issue 37(2) of the Brazilian Journal of Plastic Surgery. The manuscript was very well prepared, and we congratulate the authors. However, we consider it important to highlight some reflections:

Regarding facial fillers, the material of choice is hyaluronic acid. Unfortunately, complications arising from using hyaluronic acid have been occurring, mainly due to the performance of non-medical health professionals. The dental surgeon and co-author of this letter (RRC) considered the hyaluronic acid application in her nose by another dental surgeon for aesthetic purposes. In a few days, the immediate ischemia evolved into necrosis, causing deformity caused by scar retraction (Figure 1A). Seven surgical repair procedures have already been performed by Plastic Surgery without, however, achieving the expected results<sup>2</sup> (Figure 1B).



**Figure 1. A:** Nasal necrosis after 6 days of hyaluronic acid application; **B:** Current appearance, after the 7<sup>th</sup> reparative plastic surgery.

Our study group has been presenting on possible complications of other orofacial harmonization procedures performed by dental surgeons<sup>3-5</sup>. In addition to the possible complications, we have warned about the judicialization of these complications at the ethical-administrative level and the civil, consumer, and criminal actions involved in these situations<sup>6</sup>. Considering the possible complications arising from these procedures, which are mostly treated by Plastic Surgery, we, the authors of this Letter to the Editor, are against the performance of orofacial harmonization by dental surgeons.

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## COLLABORATIONS

**IGP** Conception and design study, Conceptualization, Final manuscript approval, Investigation, Methodology, Supervision, Visualization, Writing - Original Draft Preparation, Writing - Review & Editing.

**RRC** Conceptualization, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft Preparation, Writing - Review & Editing.

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## Reply

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As requested by the *Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Plástica*, this Letter to the Editor aims, in these short lines, to contribute to the topic for technical and scientific development in aesthetic procedures.

Currently, as is well known, dissatisfaction with self-image and the search for rejuvenation motivate the search for facial aesthetic procedures, especially those less invasive that normally allow a quick recovery after the procedure and visibility of results. Among these, as presented in Letter to the Editor authored by Pedron & Cavalcanti, are facial fillers, with hyaluronic acid most used in medical and dental procedures.

In this sense, it appears that several procedures are contemplated in the performance of the dental surgeon and, specifically concerning procedures in orofacial harmonization, there is Resolution CFO 198/2019 that recognizes this dental specialty and also, Resolution CFO 230 /2020 that lists some surgical procedures forbidden to dentists (alectomy, blepharoplasty, chestnut surgery or eyebrow lifting, otoplasty, rhinoplasty and rhytidoplasty or face lifting).

It is worth noting that the performance in orofacial harmonization involves procedures performed in aesthetic regions that influence emotional factors such as the self-esteem and well-being of the individual. Therefore, ethical and/or legal demands can occur in the face of complications that can be manifested immediately or in the long term, ranging from ecchymosis to more complex manifestations that affect the safety and health of the patient, as discussed in the systematic review published in this *Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Plástica* (Manganaro et al. 2022).

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In that study, we did not obtain information regarding the specialty of the professionals who performed the procedures, and the scope of the systematic review was to address the complications reported in the specialized literature.

Thus, in any procedure performed by health professionals, whether with an aesthetic focus or not, it is reiterated the importance of the professional obtaining adequate knowledge of facial and vascular anatomy, which can be one of the causal factors of complications, being aware of the eventual possibility occurrence of complications, as well as their prevention measures, aiming to avoid injuries and permanent damage to the patient's health.

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