

ODONTOMETRIC INDICES FLUCTUATION IN PEOPLE WITH PHYSIOLOGICAL OCCLUSION

**Vladimir Shkarin¹, Dmitry Domenyuk²,
Alexander Lepilin³, Igor Fomin⁴, Sergei Dmitrienko⁵**

¹ Department of public health and health care of doctor's improvement faculty, Volgograd State Medical University, Volgograd, Russia

² Department of general practice dentistry and child dentistry, Stavropol state medical university of Ministry of healthcare, Stavropol, Russia

³ Department of Surgical Dentistry and Maxillofacial Surgery, Saratov State Medical University, Saratov, Russia

⁴ Department of Orthopedic and General Dentistry, Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, Moscow, Russia

⁵ Department of Dentistry, Pyatigorsk Medical-Pharmaceutical Institute, Pyatigorsk, Russia

Correspondence address:

Department of general practice dentistry and child dentistry, Stavropol state medical university of Ministry of healthcare, 310, Mira Street, Stavropol, Russia 355017.
E-mail: domenyukda@mail.ru, tel: +7(918)870-1205.



Vladimir Shkarin,
Candidate of Medical Science,
Associate Professor, Head of
Department



Dmitry Domenyuk, Doctor
of Medicine, Professor



Alexander Lepilin,
Prof. MD, PhD



Igor Fomin, Dr., MD,
Associate Professor

ABSTRACT — Biometric examinations of jaw stone models and tomography images of 310 people (both genders) in their first adulthood stage with permanent teeth physiological occlusion were used to study the morphometric parameters of dental types and dental arches gnathic types in each patient. Odontometric procedure included evaluation of the crowns mesial-distal width involving the calculation of the arithmetic mean, the maximum and the minimum values, in order to estimate the deviations from the mean value (fluctuation). The outcomes suggest that there was no statistically significant difference between the odontometric parameters obtained from men and women. The significant variability in the frontal teeth size in women, compared with men, indicates that the size is only slightly dependent on gender, while is determined by the dental system type. In measurements done without taking into account the dental type, it can be hard to determine sexual dimorphism due to the fluctuating nature of the odontometric indices.

KEYWORDS — craniometry, sexual dimorphism, dental type, odontometry, normodontia.

The advances in Dental Anthropology (Anthropological Odontology), a science that studies variations in the human teeth anatomy, allows not only identifying certain regularities in the shape and size of teeth, depending on the gender, ethnicity and race, yet also developing some theoretical basics promoting further this branch of anthropology, as well as defining concepts and formulations that are of applied value in dentistry [1, 21, 22, 28, 31, 35].



Sergey Dmitrienko Doctor
of Medicine, Professor, Head of
Department

At present, the fluctuation of the gender-related features of the dentoalveolar system has a biological meaning, which is the reflection of the gene pool. Some odontological features are known to have stable gender differences in view of the racial specifics [3, 32, 39].

The indicator of sexual dimorphism is the ratio of the difference in the male and female features to the feature that occurs in males [2, 5, 7, 11, 25, 37].

The tooth size sexual dimorphism, according to K. Hanihara (1967), is subject to fluctuations, the causes of which have not been studied well enough yet.

According to A.J. Perzigian (1984), the size of the teeth correlates with growth, and taller people have been observed to have teeth of larger size than shorter ones. In this connection, manifestations of sexual dimorphism may take place [38].

Nevertheless, most experts agree that sexual dimorphism is of fluctuating nature if viewed based on a feature like the size of the teeth. In this regard, it is recommended that sampling be done observing proportional correlation by the age, as well as sexual and racial features [36].

It is worth noting the opinion of some experts pointing at the dependence of the teeth size on the gnathic and dental types of dental arches [14, 17, 19, 23]. Besides, there was an indication of correlational dependence that the dental arch dimensions have on the craniofacial parameters and, in particular, on the dimensions of the gnathic part of the face [9, 27, 29].

The taxonomic value of odontological features is due to the rigid genetic determination, their functional independence from each other as well as from other feature systems, the absence of age-related variability and directional inter-gender differences, phylogenetic age, stability, and clear geographic proximity. Taxonomic disparity of odontological features suggests more detailed distribution of the groups taking into account the current status of the entire issue in question. Recently, for instance, classifications of dental arches have been proposed in view of the gnathic and dental parameters [6, 8, 12, 15, 33]. Nine basic types of dental arches are distinguished with physiological occlusion, which take into account the gnathology (meso-, brachy- and dolichognathy) and odontometry (macro-, micro- and normodontia) [4, 10, 13, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 30, 34, 40].

Despite the numerous odontometric studies on sexual dimorphism, we have not encountered works offering a comparative study of males-female teeth size in view of the dental arches type, namely, in cases of normodontia.

Aim

To determine the odontometric fluctuations in people with physiological occlusion in terms of sexual dimorphism with normodontia of permanent teeth.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A biometric study was carried out involving 310 people (both females and males; age — 21–35, the first stage of adulthood) with physiological occlusion of permanent teeth. The odontometric and the linear parameters were measured on stone models of jaws, as well as through analyzing the data obtained with cone-beam computed tomography (Fig. 1).

Through the study, the participants were distributed based on their gender, taking into account their dental system type, which was identified based on the length of the. In cases of normodontia, the sum total of the mesial-distal crowns width for the 14 teeth constituting the upper jaw dentition varied from 110 mm to 118 mm. The gnathic type of the dental arch was identified through a computer tomogram, as the dental arch depth ratio to the width between the second molars. In cases with mesognathia the ratio was 0.74 ± 0.03 .

The average module of molars was determined based on the half-sum of the first and second molars modules. To be noted that the value of the module was taken as the half-sum of the mesial-distal and vestibular-lingual molar crown size.

In the anterior teeth and premolars odontometry, only the mesial-distal width of the crowns was taken into account. Calculation was performed for the arithmetic mean, maximum and minimum values of the odontometric index. The feature fluctuation was estimated focusing on the deviation from the mean value (feature fluctuation).

The statistical processing was performed directly from the common data matrix of EXCEL 7.0 (Microsoft, USA) also involving certain features offered by the STATGRAPH 5.1 (Microsoft, USA) software, ARCADIA (Dialog-MGU, Russia), and implied detecting the median values, its mean root square deviation, and the non-sampling error. Further on, following the patterns commonly employed for medical and biological studies (sample numbers; type of distribution; non-parametric criteria; reliability of the difference of 95%, etc.) the significance of the sampling difference was evaluated subject to the Student's criterion (t) and the respective significance index (p).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results show that the overall pattern of the odontometric parameters variations is of a fluctuating nature. The fluctuation from the mean value has revealed a fairly significant range (Table 1).

The difference between the maximum and minimum values of the mesial-distal width of the upper medial incisor crown in case of physiological occlusion is about 2 mm.

The difference in the length of the dental arch



Fig. 1. Specific features of measuring linear and angular parameters on a computer tomogram, horizontal (a), sagittal (b) and vertical (c) planes

Table 1. Major odontometric indices in people with physiological occlusion of the upper and lower permanent teeth, (mm), ($M \pm m$), ($p \leq 0,05$)

| Odontometric parameters | Size | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Upper jaw | | | Lower jaw | | |
| | average | max | min | average | max | min |
| Medial incisor | 9,10±0,18 | 10,09±0,27 | 8,11±0,09 | 5,45±0,12 | 6,01±0,19 | 4,69±0,05 |
| Lateral incisor | 6,52±0,14 | 7,71±0,22 | 5,32±0,07 | 5,97±0,14 | 6,68±0,17 | 5,27±0,12 |
| Canine | 7,94±0,23 | 8,69±0,29 | 7,19±0,18 | 6,79±0,23 | 7,73±0,26 | 5,86±0,21 |
| Sum of the six anterior teeth | 46,76±1,26 | 51,78±1,48 | 41,74±1,03 | 35,94±1,12 | 40,22±1,36 | 31,66±0,87 |
| Sum of the 14 teeth | 109,62±2,66 | 112,82±3,24 | 106,42±2,08 | 109,03±2,87 | 118,18±3,61 | 99,88±2,14 |
| Molar average module | 10,95±0,37 | 11,85±0,41 | 10,04±0,34 | 10,78±0,35 | 11,62±0,43 | 9,93±0,28 |

anterior section, which is defined as the width sum for the six anterior teeth crowns, can reach a maximum of 10 mm between the maximum and minimum values.

The lower jaw presents the same picture, yet the digital indices range is smaller.

The obtained results are consistent with the opinion expressed by most experts dealing with odontometric issues.

At the same time, we carried out a study taking into account the dental system type. 178 participants were identified as having the normodontia type of the dental system, which was $57.42 \pm 2.81\%$ of the entire number of the participants with physiological occlusion. Besides, 82 of them were males ($26.45 \pm 2.5\%$) and 96 females ($30.97 \pm 2.62\%$). Almost twice as many people were found to have signs of macrodontia (79 – $25.48 \pm 2.47\%$). The number of men and women was nearly same – 42 ($13.55 \pm 1.94\%$) and 38 persons ($11.93 \pm 1.84\%$) respectively. The lowest was the number of participants with microdontia dental systems (53 in the

group; $17.1 \pm 2.14\%$). Microdontia was significantly more typical of women (38 persons, i.e. $12.26 \pm 1.86\%$). As for men, only 15 of them ($4.84 \pm 1.22\%$) had signs of microdontia (Fig. 2).

Of the total number of the participants, we examined a group of persons distributed based on their gender, who had normodontia of permanent teeth.

Those with normodontia dental systems, the rate of the difference in the numerical values obtained from men and women to that obtained from males, varied from 1.5% to 3%, which is less determinant regarding sexual dimorphism features. The major dimensions of the teeth depend on the gnathic and dental type.

Table 2 below offers a view on the results of the upper jaw teeth parameters in people of different gender.

The difference between the maximum and minimum values of the mesial-distal width of the upper medial incisor crown in case of physiological occlusion in people with normodontia does not exceed 1 mm, which is significantly lower than a similar value obtained



Fig. 2. Specific craniofacial features (CT imaging) with permanent teeth microdontia (a) and macrodontia (b).

Table 2. The major indicators of the upper jaw permanent teeth in people (males and females) with physiological occlusion and normodontia, (mm), ($M \pm m$), ($p \leq 0,05$)

| Odontometric parameters | Teeth size | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Males | | | Females | | |
| | average | max | min | average | max | min |
| Medial incisor | 8,78±0,27 | 9,28±0,36 | 8,29±0,19 | 8,45±0,22 | 8,79±0,29 | 8,11±0,16 |
| Lateral incisor | 6,87±0,14 | 7,36±0,21 | 6,39±0,08 | 6,45±0,16 | 7,27±0,23 | 5,63±0,09 |
| Canine | 7,91±0,19 | 8,33±0,24 | 7,49±0,15 | 7,76±0,19 | 8,21±0,28 | 7,32±0,11 |
| Sum of the six anterior teeth | 47,20±1,36 | 48,38±1,49 | 46,02±1,24 | 45,69±1,31 | 48,54±1,54 | 42,84±1,08 |
| Sum of the 14 teeth | 114,15±3,35 | 115,86±3,47 | 112,44±3,23 | 113,33±3,21 | 115,98±3,32 | 110,68±3,09 |
| Molar average module | 10,58±0,33 | 10,75±0,37 | 10,41±0,28 | 10,96±0,34 | 11,81±0,41 | 10,11±0,26 |

from a study of patients without taking into account the dental arches type.

Notable is the significant reduction in the difference between the maximum and minimum values of the anterior part of the dental arch length, which is defined as the sum of the width of the six anterior teeth crowns, which does not exceed 2.5 mm.

There was no significant difference between the indicators obtained from males and females. The variability in the sizes of the six anterior teeth in females was above that in males. These values indicate that the teeth size depends on gender to a smaller extent if compared to the type of the dental system.

Table 3 contains the results of the study concerning the mandibular teeth parameters (males and females).

The lower jaw reveals a situation similar to that of the upper dental arch, while the digital indices range is smaller. There was no significant difference observed between the indicators obtained from males and females.

CONCLUSIONS

1. When performing odontometric studies, the evaluation and the interpretation of the results should be done in view of the dental system type.

2. The dental system type should be evaluated along the dental arch length, namely, the sum of the mesial-distal width of the crowns of the 14 permanent teeth that make up the dentition.

3. When performing odontometric studies without taking into account the dental system type, the features deviate significantly from the average value, which

Table 3. The major indicators for the lower jaw in permanent teeth in people with physiological occlusion and normodontia, (mm), ($M\pm m$), ($p\leq 0,05$)

| Odontometric parameters | Teeth size | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Males | | | Females | | |
| | average | max | min | average | max | min |
| Medial incisor | 5,61±0,17 | 5,99±0,21 | 5,23±0,14 | 5,37±0,16 | 5,75±0,23 | 4,99±0,09 |
| Lateral incisor | 6,07±0,16 | 6,56±0,19 | 5,57±0,12 | 6,04±0,19 | 6,45±0,26 | 5,63±0,13 |
| Canine | 7,17±0,24 | 7,64±0,28 | 6,69±0,21 | 6,66±0,14 | 7,01±0,22 | 6,31±0,07 |
| Sum of the six anterior teeth | 36,97±1,12 | 38,62±1,27 | 35,32±0,96 | 35,77±1,04 | 37,58±1,19 | 33,96±0,88 |
| Sum of the 14 teeth | 108,48±2,97 | 112,08±3,16 | 104,88±2,78 | 105,09±2,94 | 108,96±3,08 | 101,23±2,81 |
| Molar average module | 10,76±0,27 | 10,95±0,31 | 10,56±0,24 | 10,37±0,26 | 10,78±0,34 | 9,96±0,19 |

makes it difficult to determine sexual dimorphism and is of fluctuating nature.

4. The outcomes of odontometric parameters examination concerning sexual dimorphism are of applied value in terms of restorative dentistry, where the focus is on restoring and replacing teeth, as well as in forensic practice implying identification of people subject to their dental status.

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