SPECIFIC FEATURES OF TRANSVERSAL AND VERTICAL PARAMETERS IN LOWER MOLARS CROWNS AT VARIOUS DENTAL TYPES OF ARCHES

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ABSTRACT — The article offers a view on the outcomes of morphometric studies focusing on vertical, transverse parameters of the lower large molars in patients with various dental types of arches. The subject of the study was the lower molars segments obtained from jaws cast models of 65 people with physiological occlusion, a full set of permanent teeth and various types of dental system (Group 1 — normodontia; Group 2 — macrodontia; Group 3 — microdontia). For transversal direction morphometry, the vestibular-lingual size of the tooth crown and neck were used, as well as the intertubercular distance. To measure the vertical parameters, the height of the vestibular, lingual odontomere and that of the tubercle were identified. The results of the study show that people with physiological occlusion and permanent teeth macrodontia, the vertical, transversal parameters exceed those featured by people with normodontia and microdontia types of the dental system. The obtained odontometric features can be used through diagnosing occlusal relationships and identifying various pathological, physiological abrasions of varying degrees of occlusal surface loss.

KEYWORDS — jaws cast model biometry, lower jaw molars, physiological occlusion, tooth morphological structure.

INTRODUCTION

The specific feature about the large molars group is the multitubercle shape of the occlusal surface. The complexity of the odontomers structure and their variability have been presented from the point of gender and race dimorphism, as well as in view of age-related changes in the masticatory apparatus [1–6]. Odontometry issues have key positions in clinical dentistry, morphology, odontology, and forensic medicine. At the same time, people with different types of face and dental arches reveal variability of morphometric odontological parameters [7–13]. Modern classifications of face types and dental arches in people with physiological occlusion have been presented [14–19]. Teeth measurements in orthodontic clinics are the basic positions when it comes to diagnosing pathology of occlusal relationships and selecting treatment methods [20–26].

Methods of dental arches biometric study are diverse and imply not identifying linear dimensions alone, yet also allow reproducing the shape of dental arches via mathematical simulation [27–29].

Methods for maxillofacial X-ray examination have been presented, which allow identifying the key teeth position, molars in particular, to further choose the treatment method [30–39]. It has been noted that the size of the teeth is largely determined by the head facial part parameters, in particular, the diagonal dimensions that correlate with the size of the teeth and the dental arches in both jaws [40, 41].

The morphometric features of the teeth and dental arches in people with various types maxillofacial anomalies and deformations have been shown, as well as differential diagnostics algorithms have been presented [42–46].

Odontometric studies serve the basis for the choice of methods to treat patients with occlusion issues and dental arches defects of various length and localization, including full edentulism, and offer criteria for determining the effectiveness of treatment [47–50]. However, the presented works, as a rule, have odontometry measuring the mesial-distal size of the teeth crowns. It is very rarely that studies focus on measuring the transversal and vertical size of teeth, and even if so, they are carried out on the dental-maxillary segments isolated from native preparations [51].

Physiological abrasion, which is a loss of occlusal surface within the enamel, is of adaptive nature and is a factor preventing teeth functional overload. Physiological abrasion, as a slow-progressing compensated process, improves the chewing function and establishes
conditions for the lower jaw free movement, as well as for the smooth sliding of the tooth rows through various articulation stages. Pathological abrasion, as a rapidly-progressing process of the teeth enamel and dentine abrasion, causes changes in the dental and nearby tissues, and is characterized by functional disorders of the temporomandibular joint and masticatory muscles. Reducing height of the tooth crown with pathological abrasion affects the size of the face gnathic part, which requires prosthetic measures and use of structural materials [52–55].

Identifying the boundaries between the physiological and pathological teeth abrasion is an urgent task for clinical dentistry. Given that, relevant are the issues of studying the chewing surface tubercles in case of physiological norm, which determined the aim of this study.

Aim of study:
to evaluate the height of crowns and tubercles of the lower large molars with permanent teeth physiological occlusion.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
For this study, 65 people (29 men, 36 women) aged 21–35 years old were examined with physiological occlusion and integral dentition. After receiving the prints, diagnostic models from super-gypsum class III “Elite Model” (“Zhermack”, Italy) were cast. Measurements of the parameters of the teeth and dental arches were carried out on the obtained diagnostic models. A digital caliper “NORGAU ABS” was used as a toolkit (division value 0.01 mm). Odontometric studies were carried out according to the method of A.A. Zubov (1968), and included the definition of mesio-distal and vestibular-lingual size of the crown.

The longitudinal length of the dentition was calculated by the Nance method, as the sum of the mesial-distal diameters of the teeth forming it. The third molars were not taken into account in the measurements, since they are as variable as possible (Fig. 1).

Measurement was carried out on the lower molars segments obtained from 65 pairs of jaws cast models. The models were divided into three groups — with normodontia, macrodontia and microdontia.

Given the data from previous studies, dental arches were referred to normodontia where the length (or the sum of the mesial-distal crown size of 14 teeth) ranged from 112 to 118 mm (24 pairs of cast models). Sizes below or above the specified range were attributed to micro- (22 pairs of cast models), or to macrodontia (19 pairs of cast models) (Fig. 2).

In view of the specific five-tubercle shape of the first lower molars, a cut of the distal segment was performed between the spots located at the apexes of the distal vestibular and distal lingual tubercles. The distal tubercle height (hypoconulide) was not taken into account within our study, since its size varied over a wide range, up to the complete reduction of the tubercle.

On the tooth segment picked out from the cast model, spots were made with the reference lines drawn. The main points for the study were the teeth necks and the tubercle apexes on the chewing surface (Fig. 3).

The major reference was the line connecting the neck of the vestibular and the lingual contours of the crown, marked as the neck line (1). From the middle of the cervical line and perpendicular to it, a conditional median tooth vertical was drawn (2). Perpendicular to the conventional median vertical, a line was drawn through the points located at the junction of the chewing surface tubercles, which was marked as the occlusion plane (3).

The conditional tubercle lines (4 and 5) pointed at the location of the tubercles relative to the conventional median vertical and occlusal planes of the tooth.

In the transversal direction, the vestibular-lingual (VL) crown and cervical sizes were measured, as well as the intertubercular distance.

To measure the vertical parameters, the above-mentioned reference lines were used. The height of the vestibular (a) and lingual (c) odontometers was measured from the cervical line to the reference points on the articular tubercles tops. The height of the tubercles (b and d) was measured to the occlusal plane level. The data obtained through the study were subjected to statistical processing using the methods of parametric and non-parametric analysis following the outcomes of testing the compared sets for their normal distribution. The statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 23 software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
An analysis of the height parameters of the lower chewing teeth crowns and the transversal dimensions between the vestibular and the lingual contours helped reveal the morphometric features of the molars in various types of dental systems.

Measuring the mesial segment of the first lower molar, isolated from jaws cast models obtained from Group I patients (normodontic dental system), revealed that the crown width in its widest part was 10.83±0.07 mm. In the cervical region, the buccal-lingual size was 10.35±0.05 mm, while between the tubercles tops it was 7.39±0.03 mm. In the distal segment, the crown and neck dimensions were 10.56±0.08 mm and 10.25±0.06 mm, whereas the intertubercular distance was 7.25±0.04 mm (Table 1).

Vertically, the height of the crown mesial part on
Fig. 1. Photos of plaster models of the upper (a) and lower (b) jaws with contours for measuring the longitudinal length of the dental arch.

Fig. 2. Photos of plaster models of the upper jaw of patients with normodontia (a), microodontia (b), macrodontia (c).

Fig. 3. Images of the right lower molar mesial segment with marked reference lines and points for measurement (see text)

The vestibular side was significantly above (p≤0.05) that on the lingual side of the tooth, which affected the height of the chewing surface tubercles. The height of the mesial vestibular tubercle was 2.20±0.01 mm, and that of the mesial lingual tubercle was 1.32±0.01 mm.

The second molar represented two sectors as well, the anterior (mesial) and the posterior (distal) ones. The crown width of the anterior segment was 10.32±0.06 mm, distal — 9.85±0.07 mm. Therefore, the second molar was slightly smaller in size than the first one, which confirms the ideas expressed by most respective experts.

The vertical parameters of the second lower molar in the crown anterior sector were 5.35±0.04 mm from the vestibular side and 4.23±0.02 mm from the lingual side. The height of the anterior vestibular tubercle was...
1.25±0.02 mm, and the mesial lingual tubercle height — 1.51±0.03 mm.

In Group 2, the patients had larger teeth than with normodontia, which was quite obvious. The length of the dental arch in the group as a whole was 118.54±1.39 mm, which was typical of the macrodontic dental system.

The width of the first molar crown between the vestibular and lingual contours equators was 10.90±0.05 mm. In the cervical area, the buccal-lingual size was 10.68±0.06 mm, while between the tubercles peaks it measured 8.12±0.04 mm. Therefore, the tooth sizes in the transversal direction were significantly above those in Group 1.

Table 2 offers a view on the major vertical dimensions in Group 2.

### Table 2. Lower molars crowns in people with physiological occlusion and macrodontia of permanent teeth, (mm), (M ± m)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The parameters studied</th>
<th>The size of the segment isolated from the lower jaw:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at the first molar in the segment:</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mesial</td>
<td>distal</td>
<td>mesial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestibular lingual size of the tooth crown</td>
<td>10.90±0.05</td>
<td>10.70±0.08</td>
<td>10.67±0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestibular lingual size of the tooth neck</td>
<td>10.68±0.06</td>
<td>10.25±0.07</td>
<td>10.46±0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-hill distance</td>
<td>8.12±0.04</td>
<td>7.75±0.03</td>
<td>7.06±0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of buccal odontomer</td>
<td>6.03±0.05</td>
<td>6.01±0.07</td>
<td>5.33±0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of buccal tubercle</td>
<td>2.39±0.01</td>
<td>2.41±0.03</td>
<td>2.29±0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of lingual odontomer</td>
<td>5.83±0.05</td>
<td>5.47±0.07</td>
<td>5.03±0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The height of the lingual tubercle</td>
<td>1.78±0.02</td>
<td>1.83±0.02</td>
<td>1.65±0.04</td>
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</table>

The mesial height of the first large molar crown from the vestibular side was 6.03±0.05 mm, from the lingual side — 5.83±0.05 mm. The obtained data on the vertical dimensions of the crown indicated that during macrodontia, the vertical parameters were slightly above that in people with the normodontic type of dental system. Besides, there was an increase observed in the height of the tubercles chewing surface as compared with Group 1.

In the second permanent lower molar, at the anterior segment, the crown height and that of the tubercle from the vestibular side was 5.33±0.06 mm and 2.29±0.02 mm, and from the lingual side, the crown height was 5.03±0.06 mm, while the tubercle height was 1.65±0.04 mm. In the distal sector, the height of the vestibular contour of the crown and of the tubercle was 5.49±0.07 mm and 2.30±0.04 mm, respectively. On the lingual side, the height of the crown and tubercle was 4.48±0.05 mm and 1.81±0.03 mm, respectively.

In Group 3, the teeth were significantly smaller than in the other groups. The length of the dental arch in the group as a whole was 98.73±1.39 mm, which
the tubercles tops it was 5.28±0.02 mm. Therefore, the teeth sizes in the transversal direction were significantly smaller (p≤0.05) compared to Group 1 (Table 3).

Table 3. Lower molars crowns in people with physiological occlusion and microdontia of permanent teeth, (mm), (M ± m)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The parameters studied</th>
<th>The size of the segment isolated from the lower jaw:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at the first molar in the segment:</td>
<td>mesial</td>
<td>distal</td>
<td>mesial</td>
<td>distal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestibular lingual size of the tooth crown</td>
<td>10,59±0,06</td>
<td>10,37±0,08</td>
<td>10,09±0,05</td>
<td>9,64±0,09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestibular lingual size of the tooth neck</td>
<td>9,45±0,04</td>
<td>10,12±0,03</td>
<td>9,41±0,08</td>
<td>9,22±0,06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-hill distance</td>
<td>5,28±0,02</td>
<td>6,32±0,05</td>
<td>5,38±0,03</td>
<td>4,88±0,07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of buccal odontomer</td>
<td>4,62±0,08</td>
<td>3,95±0,04</td>
<td>3,71±0,07</td>
<td>3,52±0,04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of buccal tubercle</td>
<td>1,81±0,02</td>
<td>1,56±0,06</td>
<td>1,05±0,04</td>
<td>1,34±0,06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of lingual odontomer</td>
<td>4,20±0,07</td>
<td>3,45±0,03</td>
<td>3,78±0,08</td>
<td>3,97±0,05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The height of the lingual tubercle</td>
<td>1,62±0,03</td>
<td>1,56±0,04</td>
<td>1,57±0,02</td>
<td>1,46±0,03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the cast model mesial sectors of the first lower molars, the crown height from the vestibular and lingual sides were smaller than that in Group 1, and measured 4.62±0.08 mm and 4.20±0.07 mm, respectively, which had its effect on the height of the vestibular and lingual tubercles.

In the second molar, the following measurements were obtained: the height of the vestibular contour of the mesial and distal sectors was 3.71±0.07 mm and 3.52±0.04 mm, and at the lingual contour — 3.78±0.08 mm and 3.97±0.05 mm, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The results of odontometry for lower permanent molars in people with different dental arches have revealed a direct relationship between the teeth size (macrodontia, normodontia, microdontia) and their transversal (vestibular-lingual size of the crown, tooth neck and intertubercular distance), as well as the vertical (height of the vestibular, lingual odontomer and of the tubercle) parameters.

2. The obtained odontometric data can be used for diagnosing occlusive relationships and identifying various pathological, physiological abrasion types with varying degrees of occlusal surface loss.

3. The morphometric features of the teeth transverse and vertical parameters can offer meaningful data and be clinically significant in terms of diagnosing and predicting the course of the disease, as well as they are of reasonable scientific value and can be employed to clarify the mechanisms behind the development of pathological abrasion in hard dental tissues, and the choice of optimal treatment tactics with a minimum likelihood of complications development.

REFERENCES


