INTRODUCTION:
Mandible is an important facial structure for supporting masticatory muscles, oropharynx and muscles of expression in addition to establishment of dental structures, \(^1\), eating, talking, swallowing, breathing and facial expressions depend on presence of intact mandible \(^2\), mandibular defects due to trauma, infection, tumors, or congenital events can affect the mandibular functions \(^3\).

The mandibular defects can be reconstructed using nonvascularized graft, free flaps however these procedures are complicated with morbidity of the donor sites, infections and subsequent loss of the graft, furthermore free flaps need long operative time and high learning curve \(^4\).

Recently transport distraction osteogenesis (TDO) - as a more conservative technique - can be used for mandibular reconstruction, where transport distraction depends on creation of bone transport disc from the remaining mandibular structure by osteotomy keeping intact soft tissue attachment of this disc to secure its blood supply, then latency period should be elapsed for giving chance to form bone callus, then the distraction device is activated gradually to distract the callus till the transport disc reaches the desired site then consolidation period must be spent for the callus to be matured \(^5\).

Transport distraction osteogenesis is experienced through different studies for mandibular reconstruction and recommended further studies was stated for evaluation of this new biotechnology \(^6\).

MATERIAL AND METHODS
This study was carried out in the department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery, Faculty Of Oral And Dental Medicine South Valley University, since where ethical approval obtained from ethical committee of Faculty Of Medicine South Valley University, all the patients presented with mandibular tumors in need for surgical excision and reconstruction are selected for this study, where consents from the patients were obtained and the procedure was explained for them, medically compromised patients were excluded from this study, routine laboratory investigations and medical fitness of the patient were evaluated, computerized tomography of maxillofacial region was obtained to determine the size of the lesion, safety margin and to design the transport distractor that is guided by reconstruction plate, all the devices throughout this study was manufactured by Arab Engineer company, Egypt, for each case, the tumor was exposed supraperiostally through submandibular approach and additional intraoral approach, the adjacent bone...
was exposed and the tumor excised surgically with at least 1 cm safety margin using surgical bur mounted on high torque surgical motor with normal saline irrigation, the custom made reconstruction plates were fixed in its preplanned position and the distractor device was adjusted according to preoperative planning then transport disc was osteotomized, and fixed to the distractor which was activated to ensure free movement of the bony disc then it was returned to its original position, the wounds closed in layers, after 7 days latency period the distractor was activated till reach the planned site, then the device left for consolidation, then the distractor arm was removed removed in another surgical operation with subsequent prosthetic rehabilitation, the patients followed by panoramic x ray and ct, the results were analysed using origin pro 8.5 software

**RESULTS**

As shown in table 1 Number of the patients was nine patients, 5 females and 4 males, the mean age was 28.7 year with standard deviation, (std) ±12.22475, the mean size of the transport disc was about 2 cm std ±0.39087, while the mean size of the surgical defects was 8 cm and std ±0.86603, the mean period of activation was 12 week with std ±1.25167 while the mean of consolidation period was 3.2 months with std ±0.44096,

As regards the pathological lesions, 6 patients had ameloblastoma, two patients had ameloblastic fibroma and one patient had desmoplastic fibroma, ramus and condyle was excised in two patients (figure 1,2) another 2 patients showed lesions in anterior regions (figure 3, 4) and 5 patients had lesions affected the premolar molar region (figure 5) the results were satisfied for the patient and prosthetic appliances were designed for restoration of reasonable occlusions,

![Figure 1](image1.jpg)

*Figure 1* showing ameloblastoma affecting body and ramus of the mandible, b stereolithographic model for designing the distractor and reconstruction plate c- excised tumor

![Figure 2](image2.jpg)

*Figure 2* a osteotomy of transport disc b- fixation of the reconstruction plate c-distraction during activation stage, d- complete reconstruction of the defect, e- complete set of teeth using acrylic denture

![Figure 3](image3.jpg)

*Figure 3* showing a, axial view with anterior ameloblastoma, b excised tumor, c resulted defect d- reconstruction of the defect by two transport discs, e- panoramic view showing approximation of the transport discs
**Figure 4** showing a- 3DCT with anterior mandibular ameloblastoma, b- distraction fixed before excision of the lesion, c- large excised segment, d- panorama during distraction using only one distractor disc, e- the last photo showing using intraoral pink acrylic lingual plate to aid in molding of alveolar ridge during distraction.

**Figure 5** showing a- axial section of ameloplastic fibroodontome, b- photo swelling of the lower left site of mandible, c- defect before distraction, d- 3D CT showing reconstruction of the defect.
DISCUSSION:

Reconstruction of mandibular defects is a great challenge for maxillofacial surgeons because mandible is an essential esthetic dynamic facial unit. It is stated that mandibular defects equal to or less than 5 cm can be reconstructed by non vascularized graft, but this procedures complicated by infection and morbidity of donor site or even loss of the graft if it is grossly infected.

Vascularized graft can be used for reconstruction of mandibular defect that is more than 5 cm specially in site with deficient soft tissue coverage or in oncological lesion that indicate postoperative radiotherapy, however this needs steep learning curve, and needs long time during operation and the type of the obtained bone is different. Distraction osteogenesis is an effective surgical procedures providing both bony and soft tissue reconstruction with the same type of membranous bone of the mandible, further more distraction is simple in its manipulation. So that distraction osteogenesis was used during this study to reconstruct the mandibular defects after surgical excision of the tumor.

Distraction of single osteotomy of shortened bone called monofocal distraction, while in case of bone defect that is reconstructed using single transport disc - that it is distracted to reach the opposing site (docking site) - it is called bifocal distraction, while on reconstruction of bone defect using two transport discs on both opposing sites till meet each other (at docking site) it is called trifocal distraction.

It is to be mentioned that the lingual soft tissue attachment to the transport disc must be kept intact to maintain good blood supply and this is in accordance to the study of Spagnoli, the width of transport disc through this study was ranged from 2 to 2.5 cm to keep sufficient soft tissue attachment for good blood supply and prevent its atrophy according to the literature. The consolidation period through this study was ranged from 3 to 4 month to obtain good bone quality and this is recommended by the study of Balaji Whose study was based on 9 case series, while it is recommended by another study to be 45 days consolidation period for every 15 mm distraction.

All the distraction devices through this study were intraoral designs and this is aesthetically more acceptable than extraoral devices that interferes with social contacts of the patients and complicated by skin scars, and this is in contrast to the study of Bansod and Lahiri who preferred using extra oral device with their case study, while Balaji preferred intraoral transport distractor through his study throughout this study all the defects reconstructed through using bifocal distraction except one defect constructed by using trifocal distraction (one disc on each side) because the defect was central at the anterior region of the mandible to keep facial symmetry, it is to be noted that that straight distraction is better and larger than arched distraction according to the study of Nelakandan and Bhrgava.

Throughout this study, combination of distraction arm with guiding reconstruction plate was used in all cases except one case while distraction arm was used without accompanied reconstruction plate instead lingual guiding acrylic plate was used and good molding of distraction was achieved. The most challenging situation of transport distraction remains to be the obtaining of union at the docking site. Various techniques to creat union at the docking site includes persistent compression, alternate compression-distraction, bone grafting, and adjunctive therapies such as electromagnetic waves, low ultrasound intensity and use of growth factors.

In this study reconstruction of the defects that is remained in the docking site were reconstructed using autogenous grafts in two patients and hydroxyapatite synthetic graft in two patients and left to heal by direct contact and miniplate in the other patients and this is in accordance to the study of Spagnoli, and Balaji in this study two patients with condylar defects reconstructed by the reconstruction plate that was used alongside with the distractor arm this is in accordance to the study of Neelakandan et al who used the reconstruction plate for reconstruction of the condyle in two patient through their study although distraction osteogenesis procedures take long time, but it has no morbidity of donor site, does not need steep curve of learning, and it needs less time of operation than free flap procedures, less team members during distraction are required also it can be used for reconstruction of defects more than 6 cm for both bony and associated soft tissue defects.

CONCLUSION

Transport distraction osteogenesis is an effective valuable procedure for reconstruction of mandibular defects without donor site morbidity.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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