



Navigating Voice Changes in the Healing process of Orthognathic Surgery

Aneel Bhangu*

Department of Colorectal Surgery, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

DESCRIPTION

Orthognathic surgery, also known as corrective jaw surgery, is a procedure performed to correct various skeletal and dental irregularities in the jaw and face. While the primary goal of orthognathic surgery is to improve functional aspects such as chewing, breathing, and aesthetics, it is important to consider its potential effects on voice characteristics. Voice plays a major role in communication, and any changes in its quality or function can significantly impact an individual's overall well-being. In this article, we will explore the effects of orthognathic surgery on voice characteristics.

Orthognathic surgery involves repositioning the upper and lower jaws to achieve proper alignment and balance. The surgical procedure may include maxillary (upper jaw) and/or mandibular (lower jaw) advancement or setback, genioplasty (chin surgery), and other related procedures. These surgical interventions alter the anatomical structure of the oral cavity, potentially affecting the vocal apparatus and subsequently voice production.

One of the primary concerns for patients undergoing orthognathic surgery is whether their voice will be altered postoperatively. While some individuals report changes in their voice after surgery, the effects are generally temporary and resolve as the healing process progresses. It is important to note that each patient's experience may vary, and the extent of voice changes depends on several factors, including the specific surgical procedures performed, pre-existing vocal characteristics, and individual healing patterns.

The most commonly reported voice changes following orthognathic surgery include hoarseness, reduced vocal range, altered resonance, and changes in articulation. These changes are primarily attributed to the temporary swelling and inflammation that occur as part of the normal healing process. The tissues surrounding the vocal folds may become edematous, affecting their vibration and thus altering voice quality. Patients may also experience discomfort and difficulty in phonation due to postoperative pain and swelling.

The duration of voice changes varies from person to person but is generally temporary. In most cases, the swelling subsides within a few weeks to months, and the voice gradually returns to its preoperative state. However, it is important to note that the healing process can be influenced by various factors such as the extent of surgical trauma, individual healing capacity, and adherence to postoperative care instructions.

While temporary voice changes are common, it is essential to differentiate them from more severe and persistent voice problems that may occur in rare cases. In some instances, patients may develop postoperative complications such as vocal fold injury, nerve damage, or scar tissue formation, which can lead to long-term voice changes. These complications, though uncommon, may require further evaluation and treatment by a speech-language pathologist or otolaryngologist.

To minimize the potential impact on voice characteristics, preoperative assessment and counseling play a crucial role. Prior to undergoing orthognathic surgery, patients should undergo a comprehensive evaluation that includes an assessment of their voice and speech characteristics. This evaluation helps identify any pre-existing voice concerns and provides a baseline against which postoperative changes can be measured.

Furthermore, collaboration between the surgical team and speech-language pathologists is essential to ensure optimal outcomes. By working together, the surgical and rehabilitation teams can develop a tailored treatment plan that addresses both the functional and aesthetic goals of the surgery while minimizing the impact on voice characteristics. Postoperative voice therapy may be recommended to facilitate a smooth transition and optimize vocal recovery.

It is important for patients to have realistic expectations regarding the potential changes in voice following orthognathic surgery. While temporary voice changes are common, most individuals experience a return to their preoperative voice quality as the healing process progresses. Patience, adherence to postoperative care instructions, and communication with the healthcare team are key to a successful recovery.

Correspondence to: Aneel Bhangu, Department of Colorectal Surgery, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK, E-mail: bhanguaneel@gmail.com

Received: 15-May-2023, Manuscript No. JSA-23-21841; **Editor assigned:** 17-May-2023, Pre QC No. JSA-23-21841 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 01-Jun-2023, QC No JSA-23-21841; **Revised:** 08-Jun-2023, Manuscript No. JSA-23-21841(R); **Published:** 15-Jun-2023, DOI: 10.35248/2684-1606.23.7.209

Citation: Bhangu A (2023) Navigating Voice Changes in the Healing process of Orthognathic Surgery. J Surg Anesth. 7:209.

Copyright: © 2023 Bhangu A. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

In conclusion, orthognathic surgery can have temporary effects on voice characteristics due to the surgical trauma and subsequent healing process. While changes such as hoarseness, reduced vocal range, altered resonance, and changes in articulation are common, they typically resolve over time. Rarely,

more severe and persistent voice problems may occur as a result of postoperative complications. Preoperative evaluation, collaboration between the surgical and rehabilitation teams, and postoperative voice therapy can help minimize the impact on voice characteristics and facilitate a successful recovery.