

Incidence of Oral Clefts in Kuwait: Trends and Demographic Differentials

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INTRODUCTION: Non-syndromic cleft lip and palate (NCLP) is one of the most common craniofacial anomalies with a multifactorial etiology.

OBJECTIVES: To study trends in the incidence of oral clefts in a multi-centric approach in Kuwait, and identifying differentials in diagnosis, gender, ethnicity and regional distribution of oral cleft cases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Records at Kuwait's Ministry of Health hospitals (Alamiri, Aladan Dental Centers, and Albabtain Hospital for Plastic surgery) treating cleft cases were retrospectively retrieved and reviewed. From Albabtain hospital (available records found during 1993-1999 and 2011-2019 time periods) and Aladan and Alamiri dental centers (2008-2019). Oral cleft cases were identified, and date of birth, gender, and ethnicity were recorded. Diagnosed cases were coded according to the ICD-10- CM classification. Incidence rates/1,000 live births for each of the last three decades were calculated based on total number of live births recorded from Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil information (PACI). Computer software SPSS V 25 was used for data analysis and graphical presentation.

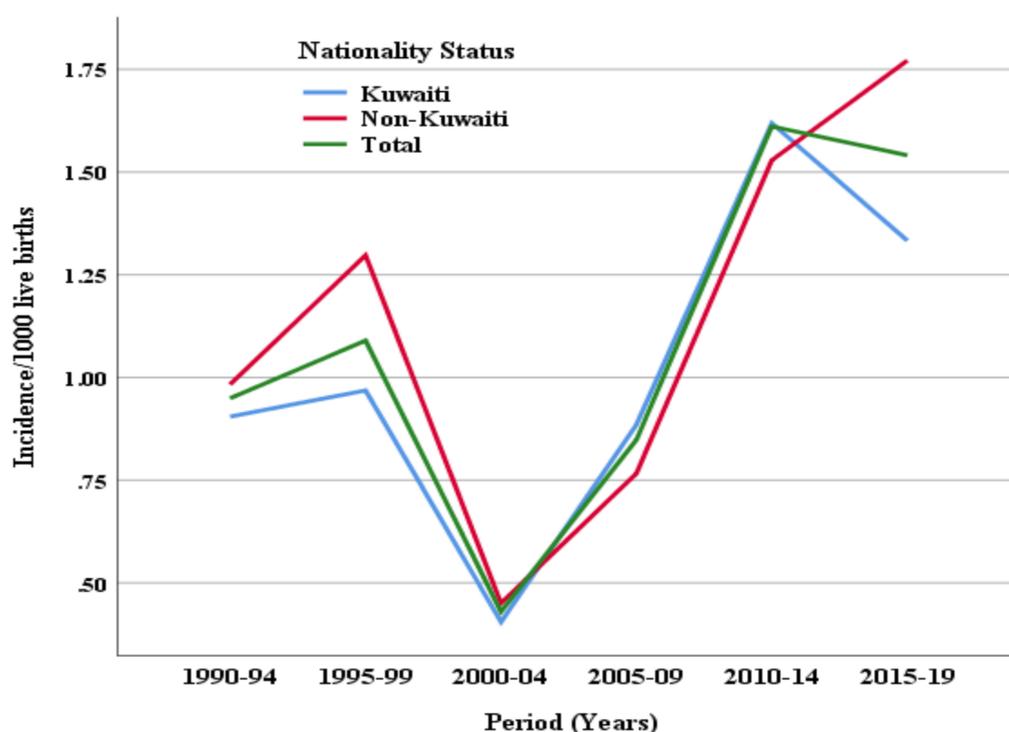
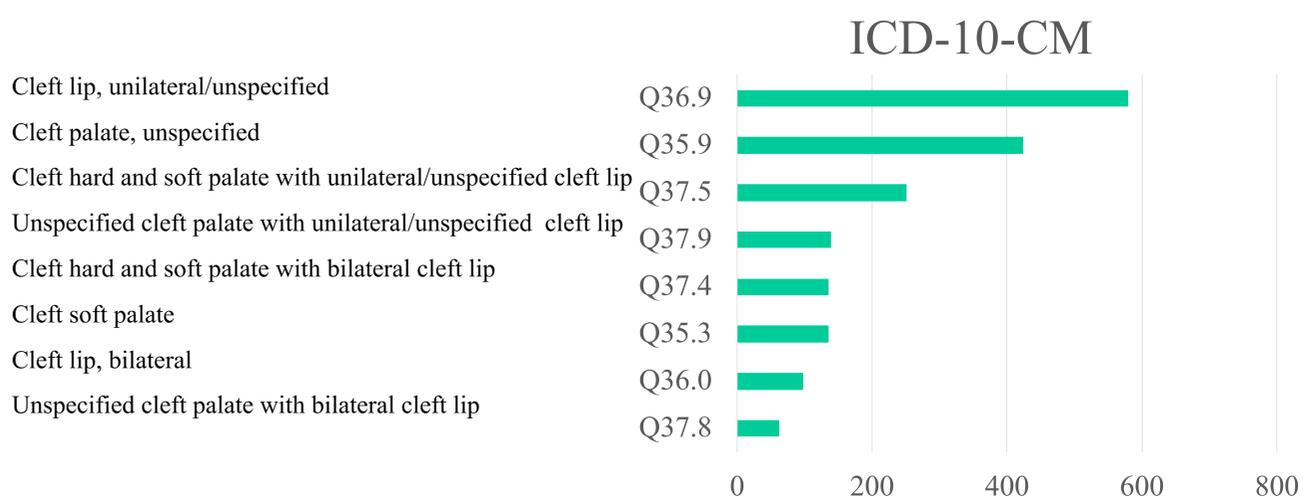
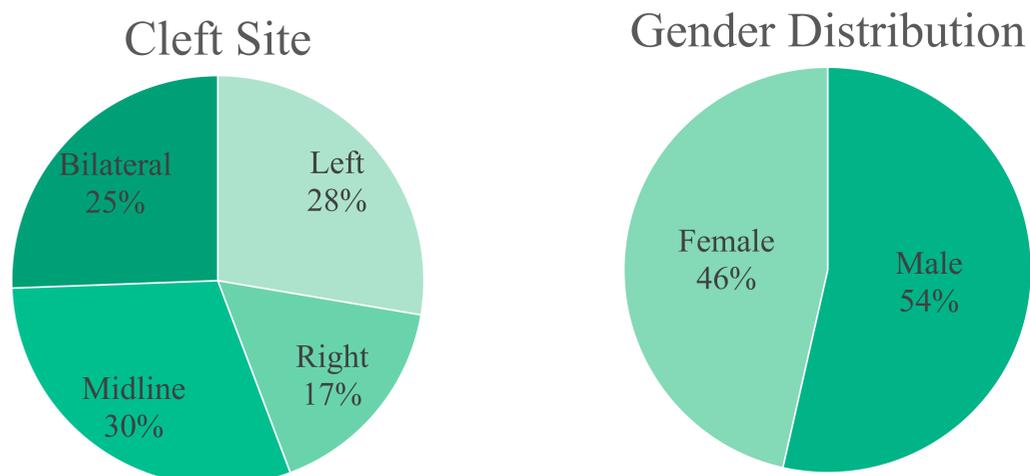
RESULTS

The Incidence of cleft cases in the past three decades (1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019) varied between 0.43 to 1.61 per 1000 live births in Kuwait. A significant increase in the incidence was noticed in last decade compared to previous ones ($p < 0.001$). Gender-wise, 54% were males, and 46% females, on ethnicity basis 57% were native Kuwaitis and 43% non-Kuwaiti expatriate community. The largest ethnic group of non-Kuwaitis were Egyptians, followed by Indians and Syrians. Other ethnic groups included Saudis, Pakistanis, Jordanian, and Afghans. Maximum cases (29.4%) were of Cleft lip unilateral (Q36.9), followed by Q35.9 (21.5%) and Q37.5 (12.7%).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: The study outcome concerning incidence trends and differentials in gender and ethnic distribution in a multi-center approach in Kuwait would be an indicator towards improving patient care in the Ministry of Health hospitals/centers and provide better projections of future needs. However, missing records from Albabtain hospital during early 2000s are still to be located and analyzed to better understand trends during the last 3 decades

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Cleft lip and related conditions Incidence rate/1000 live births in Kuwait during 1990-2019



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