Reprint of: Orofacial Examination Checklist by Robert M. Mason and Charlann Simon (1977)

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Orofacial Examination Checklist

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(The following examination forms parallel the information in the preceding article by Dr. Mason. They were first published as an appendix to the article, "An Orofacial Examination Checklist," by Mason and Simon in "Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools," July, 1977, Vol. VIII, No. 3, pp. 155-163, a publication of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and are reprinted here with permission from the Director of ASHA Publications Office and from both authors. Editor)

Patient name: ____________________________ Age: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Examiner: ____________________________

I. Facial Characteristics

A. General appearance: normal color __________________ ; normal symmetry __________________ .
   adenoid facies __________________ ; other __________________ .

B. Frontal view
   1. eye spacing: normal (one eye apart) __________________ ;
      hypertelorism __________________ ; other __________________ .

   2. zygomatic bones: normal __________________ ; hypoplasia __________________ ;
      other __________________ .

   3. nasal area: septum (straight) __________________ ;
      or deviated __________________ ; nares __________________ ;
      columella __________________ ; septum/turbinate relationship __________________ .
      turbinate color __________________ ; other notations __________________ .

   4. vertical facial dimensions:
      a. upper (40° of face) __________________ ; other notations __________________ .

      b. lower (60° of face) __________________ ; other notations __________________ .

   5. lips: cupid's bow present __________________ ; muscular union __________________ ; neuromotor functioning /u/ /i/ /p-p-p/ __________________ ; other notations __________________ .

C. Profile

1. normal (straight or convex) linear relationship between bridge of nose, to base of nose, to chin __________________ .

   maxilla __________________ ;
   retraction __________________ ;
   mandible __________________ ;
   maxilla __________________ ;
   protrusion __________________ ;
   mandible __________________ .
2. mandibular plane: normal ; steep ; flat .

D. General notations:

I I. Intracranial Characteristics

A. Dentition

1. general hygiene: good ; needs improvement ; caries ; gingival hyperplasia or recession

2. occlusal relationships ("bite on your back teeth" and separate cheek from teeth with tongue depressor)
a. first molar contacts:
   Class I—normal molar occlusion (mandibular molar is one-half tooth ahead of maxillary molar)
   Class I malocclusion (normal molar relationship with variations in other areas of dentition)

Class II malocclusion (maxillary ahead of mandibular first molar)

Class III malocclusion (mandibular molar more than one-half tooth ahead of maxillary molar)

b. biting surfaces: normal vertical overlap (overbite)
   excessive vertical overlap A / P ; normal horizontal overlap (overjet)
   excessive horizontal overlap A / P ; crossbite (mandibular tooth or teeth outside or wider than maxillary counterpart, or maxillary tooth or teeth inside mandibular counterpart)
   notation of teeth involved ; open bite (gap between biting surfaces) A / P

c. sibilant production with teeth in occlusion: normal /s/
  /z/ ; /l/ ; /v/

B. Hard palate ("extend your head backward")

1. midline coloration: normal (pink and white)
   abnormal (blue tint)

2. lateral coloration: normal ; torus palatinus (blue tint surrounding a raised midline bony growth)

3. posterior border and nasal spine: normal ; short

4. general bony framework: normal ; submucous cleft ; cleft ; repaired cleft ; other

5. palatal vault; normal relationship between maxillary arch/vault ; narrow maxillary arch/high vault ; wide maxillary arch/flat vault ; other

6. general notations

C. Soft palate or velum (Examiner's eye level should be at patient's mouth level. Patient's head erect, mouth three-fourths open, and tongue not extended out of mouth.)

1. midline muscle union (say "ah"): normal (whitish-pink tissue line)
   submucous cleft (blue tint with A-type configuration during phonation)
   cleft ; repaired cleft

2. length: effective (closure of nasopharyngeal port possible during phonation) ; ineffective (hypernasality noted)

3. velar dimple (where elevated soft palate buckles during phonation); normal 80% of total velar length (or 3-5 mm above tip of uvula) ; other notations

4. velar elevation: normal (up to plane of hard palate) ; reduced ; other

5. range of velar excursion (up and back stretching during phonation): excellent ; moderate ; minimal

6. presence of hypernasality during counting:
   60s ; 70s ; 80s ; 90s

7. general notations: regarding air loss on unphonated sounds (nasal emission) and nasal resonance on phonated sounds
D. Uvula
1. shape: normal ________; bifid ________; other ________
2. position: midline ________; lateral ________

E. Fauces
1. open isthmus ________; tonsillar obstruction of isthmus ________
2. tonsil coloration: normal (pinkish) ________; inflamed ________

F. Pharynx
1. depth between velar dimple and pharyngeal wall on “ah”: normal ________; deep ________; other ________
2. Passavant’s pad: present during physiologic activity? ________; removed ________
3. adenoidal surgery (ask patient): intact ________; removed ________; date of tonsil/adenoïd removal ________
4. gag response: positive ________; negative ________; weak ________
5. general notations: ________

G. Tongue
1. size: normal ________; macroglossia (rare) ________; microglossia ________
2. diadochokinetic rate—an estimate of neuromotor maturation for speech (observe consistency and pattern of rapid movements during the 15-repetition sequence)
   a. normal movement patterns: tuh ________; luh ________; kuh ________; pub-tuh-kuh ________; describe variations ________
   b. mandibular assist: normal (until age seven and one-half) ________; possible neuromotor delay for speech (after seven and one-half) ________
3. lingual frenum: normal (tongue tip to alveolar ridge when mouth is one-half open) ________; short ________
4. general notations: ________

III. General Observations and Other Findings
OROFACIAL EXAMINATION CHECKLIST—SHORT FORM

I. Facial Characteristics
   A. Frontal view—eye spacing: zygomatic bones; nasal area; vertical dimensions; lips
   B. Profile—straight/convex; excessively convex; concave

II. Intraoral Characteristics
   A. Dentition—general
       1. occlusal relationships—anterior and posterior
       2. bite—normal; excessive overbite or overjet; openbite; crossbite
       3. sibilant production/teeth relationships: /s/, /z/, /l/, /v/
   B. Hard palate—bony shelf formation
       1. coloration—midline; lateral
       2. bony midline (palpate): normal; submucous cleft (short)
       3. contour—vault/maxillary arch relationship
   C. Soft palate or velum
       1. midline muscle union—complete; submucous cleft
       2. length at rest and effective length during phonation
       3. location of dimpling on velum from nasal spine to uvula tip
       4. velar elevation and range of velar excursion
       5. acoustic correlates: amount of nasality during counting in 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s
   D. Uvula—shape and position
   E. Fauces—isthmus opening and coloration; tonsils intact?
   F. Pharynx
       1. depth between velar dimple and pharyngeal wall on “ah”
       2. observation of Passavant’s pad during function
       3. ask patient if adenoids removed and subsequent speech status
       4. gag response
   G. Tongue
       1. size related to oral environment
       2. diadochokinetic rate on: tuh; luh; kuh; puh-tuh-kuh
       3. lingual frenum

III. General Observations and Other Findings