



Supra-basilar mandibular osteotomy for the correction of facial asymmetries

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Abstract:

The supra-basilar osteotomy described in 2017 is a sagittal splitting method that preserves the basilar margin up to the posterior edge of the ramus. It consists in performing a splitting but stopping the vertical osteotomy line 5 mm above the basilar margin. A horizontal osteotomy line is then made along the basilar margin to the posterior border of the ramus.

The supra-basilar osteotomy has many advantages. It preserves the basilar margin, which allows preservation of the jawline and avoids pre-angular notches. It allows an elongation of the ramus by preserving important surfaces of bone coaptation. It limits the risk of pseudoarthrosis and bone resorption and allows significant advances without enlargement of the lower third of the face.

This technique can be used unilaterally associated with a classic contralateral splitting in important asymmetries. Supra-basilar osteotomy cannot be used in all cases. It requires a precise analysis of the movements to be obtained at the level of the angles, particularly in lateromandibular cases, and of the mandibular anatomy before the operation to allow a safe splitting. It is also desirable in the case of ramus lengthening that the splitting be as complete as possible up to the posterior edge to limit the appearance of posterior notches. This procedure will be presented step by step, with emphasis on the technical tips and pitfalls to be avoided.