

Comparative Evaluation of the External Gonial Angle in Adults Patients with Class I Malocclusion from Panoramic Radiographs and Lateral Cephalograms

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: One of the most important measurements required for Orthodontic treatment and Orthognathic surgery is gonial angle. It is difficult to determine the accurate measurement of each gonial angle on cephalometric radiographs because of superimposition of the left and right angles.

Objectives: the aim of the present study was to evaluate external gonial angle using orthopantomogram and comparing it with lateral cephalogram in skeletal class I malocclusion.

Materials and Methods: From 14 to 29-year adult patients, a total of 100 panoramic and cephalometric radiographs were obtained and the gonial angle was determined by the tangent of the inferior border of the mandible and the most distal aspect of the ascending ramus and the condyleon both panoramic and cephalometric radiographs. To mark and measure the angles and other parameters, cephalometric protractor and calipers were used.

Results: The mean gonial angle was 123.30 ± 6.04 and 120.13 ± 5.77 degrees on cephalometric and panoramic radiographs, respectively. There was no significant difference between the values of gonial angles determined by lateral cephalogram and panoramic radiography ($P=0.995$).

Conclusion: The value of the gonial angle measured on panoramic radiography was the same as that measured on the routinely used cephalometric radiography.

Key words: Radiography, Panoramic, Cephalometry, Gonial angle

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INTRODUCTION

Orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning require essential and supplementary diagnostic aids for detailed study of dental occlusion, soft tissue proportions and hard tissue relationships [1]. However, an essential diagnostic aid includes panoramic radiography, study models, and photography.

Panoramic radiography was introduced in 1961 [2]. The information about the teeth maturation periods, their inclinations and surrounding tissues [2,3] are frequently used in orthodontic practice which are obtained by Panoramic radiographs. Both right and left angles without any superimposition⁴ are also visualized by panoramic radiographs. In diagnosis and treatment planning for orthodontic and orthognathic surgery, Lateral cephalogram is considered as supplementary diagnostic aid. It ascertains the dimensions of lines, angles and planes between anthropometric landmarks

established by physical anthropologists and point by including measurements, description and appraisal of the morphologic configuration and growth changes in the skull. Because of superimposition of left and right angles [4] determination of gonial angle is difficult.

With the same degree of accuracy as from lateral cephalogram [5] the size of gonial angle can be determined from the panoramic radiograph also, as reported by various studies. The gonial angle on lateral cephalograms is important in forecasting growth [6-9] which represents mandibular morphology with respect to the mandibular ramus and mandibular body. For diagnosing panoptic jaw lesions and changes in anatomical landmarks, such as the condition of the mandibular ramus width and angle, width of cortical bone in the inferior border of the mandible, and the development of calcification in the oral cavity or cervical region [10] Panoramic radiographs are used.

No previous report described how to produce accurate, detailed images of the gonial angle [11-19], though various studies evaluated the gonial angle on panoramic radiographs. A detailed method for drawing the inferior border of the mandible in which only one line is made on the inferior border of the mandible, so that there is no change in the condition of the gonial angle is essential. Additionally, if the gonial angle on panoramic radiographs is anatomically similar to the gonial angle on lateral cephalograms or has a characteristic structure, panoramic radiographs may prove to be more useful and could become a high-value-added dental examination. Thus, using a novel method, we examined the utility of measuring the gonial angle on panoramic radiographs and the correlation between the gonial angle on panoramic radiographs and lateral cephalograms. The aims of the present study were to evaluate external gonial angle using orthopantomogram and comparing it with lateral cephalogram in skeletal class I malocclusion and to evaluate the difference in sex dimorphism.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This cross-sectional study was conducted at Department of Orthodontics in Mansarovar Dental College and Hospital Bhopal (MP) India, the preoperative Orthodontic record of 100

cephalograms and orthopantomogram obtained from patients visiting in college, and department of orthodontics for treatment. A total of 50 male and 50 female patients were included in the study with age ranging from 14 to 29 years. This age range are selected because no teeth missing (other than third molar) and who had not received orthodontic treatment. They were selected based on the following inclusion criteria:

- (1) Skeletal class I malocclusion.
- (2) All the lateral cephalometric radiographs and orthopantomographs were taken with same apparatus with standard exposure conditions and in the Natural Head Position (NHP).
- (3) The radiographs are high quality and sharpness.
- (4) Fully erupted permanent incisors and first molars.

The subjects with previous history of trauma or craniofacial malformation affecting the facial symmetry, pathological jaw lesion and Orthodontic treatment were not included in the study. Before the commencement of the study, all participants were informed about the study and written consents were obtained from them and Ethical approval was obtained from the hospital research committee for the study.

The radiographs were taken with XTROPAN 2000 Panoramic system in natural head position. The film distance to the X-Ray tube was fixed at 152 cm. The distance from the film to the mid sagittal plane of the patient head was also fixed at 15 cm. Films were exposed at 80KV, 10mAs and a filter of 2.5mm aluminum equivalent was used.

The selected radiographs have been traced onto a sheet of cellulose acetate by using a 2H pencil (Figure 1). The Cephalometric landmarks were located, identified and marked as per Steiner's analyses (Figure 2). The measured angle was widely accepted as a skeletal analysis's parameter, hence in our study we have taken SNA, SNB, ANB; angles or parameter to prove skeletal class I malocclusion. The lines and angles were drawn and measured using a cephalometric protractor and calipers. In the lateral cephalograms, the gonial angle was measured at the point of intersection of the plane tangential to the lower border of the mandible and that tangential to

the distal border of the ascending ramus and the condyle (Figure 2). Mandibular plane was drawn on basis of tweeds analysis. In the panoramic radiographs, the gonial angle was measured by drawing a line tangent to the lower border of the mandible and another line tangent to the distal border of the ascending ramus and the condyle on both sides (Figure 3). After 15 days, both the lateral cephalogram and orthopantomograms were traced and angles were measured. The

obtained values were compared with previous values and mean values were taken for analysis.

Statistical analysis

The recorded values were analyzed using SPSS software version 16.0, one-way ANOVA test was applied. The mean gonial angle on lateral cephalogram and on OPG (right and left sides) with standard deviations according to gender was calculated. Pearson product-moment

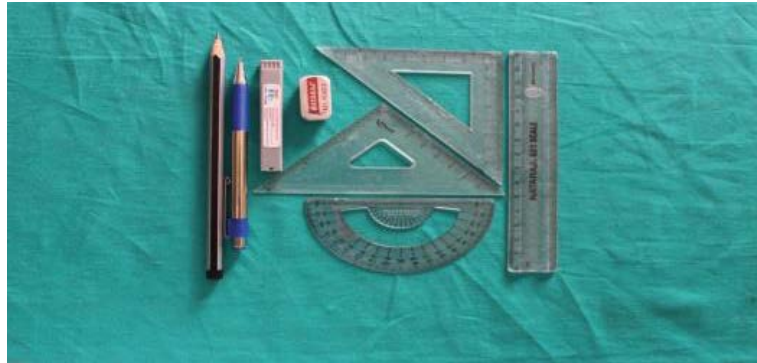


Figure 1: Armamentarium.

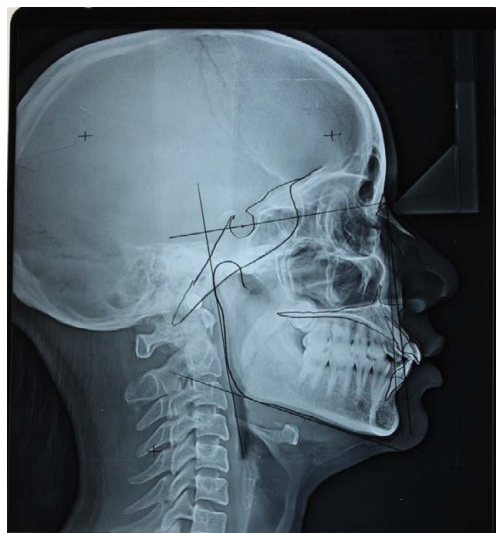


Figure 2 External gonial angle in the lateral cephalogram.



Figure 3: External gonial angle right and left in orthopantomogram.

Table 1: Mean, standard deviation and range of gonial angle in lateral cephalogram and OPG.

Method	Sex	Min	Max	Mean	SD	F	P value
Lat. Ceph.	All patients (n=100)	109	133	123.3	6.04	0.005	0.995
	Male (N=50)	113	132	121.36	5.92		
	Female (N=50)	109	133	123.24	6.22		
OPG-Avg	All patients (n=100)	105	132	120.13	5.77	0.228	0.796
	Male (N=50)	105	129.5	119.74	5.6		
	Female (N=50)	109	132	120.52	5.96		

Table 2: Mean, standard deviation and range of gonial angle in lateral cephalogram and OPG in females.

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Range
Gonial angle in cephalogram in females	123.24	6.21	109-133
Gonial angle in OPG in females	125.52	5.96	109-132
Right gonial angle in OPG in females	120.28	7	108-133
Left gonial angle in OPG in females	120.76	5.94	109-133

Table 3: Mean, standard deviation, and range of gonial angle in lateral cephalogram and OPG in males.

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Range
Gonial angle in cephalogram in males	123.36	5.91	113-132
Gonial angle in OPG in males	119.74	5.59	105-129
Right gonial angle in OPG in males	119.52	5.69	106-128
Left gonial angle in OPG in males	119.96	5.94	104-131

correlation was used to measure the degree of correlation between right and left gonial angles on OPG and on lateral cephalogram.

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was applied for differences in gonial angle between the groups. For inter-observer reliability, measurements were repeated after two weeks with randomly selected radiographs and paired t-test was performed. The statistical significance was set at ≤ 0.05 (p-value) and a level of $P < 0.01$ considered to be highly significant.

RESULTS

The mean value of the gonial angle in lateral cephalograms was $123.30 \pm 6.04^\circ$ (Table 1) and the gonial angle in females (Table 2) was 123.24° and that in males (Table 3) 123.36° with no statistically significant difference between the two genders.

The mean value of the gonial angle in panoramic radiographs was $120.13^\circ \pm 5.77^\circ$ (Table 1) and the gonial angle in females was 125.52° and that in males 119.74° with no statistically significant difference between the two genders. There was no significant difference between the values of gonial angles determined by lateral cephalogram and panoramic radiography ($P=0.995$). Also, in panoramic radiography, there was no significant difference between the right and left gonial angles ($P=0.796$).

DISCUSSION

Our study result illustrates that, there was no statistically significant difference found between orthopantomograms and lateral cephalograms with mean age group of 19.76 years in both male and female adult patients. Similar study was carried out by Shahabi, et al. with mean age group of 18.24 years and study was concluded no evidence of statistically significant between them [2]. In comparison with both above study, our studies report lesser external gonial angle values, but statistically insignificant.

Larheim, et al. carried out similar study with aim to evaluate values of external gonial angle on right and left on orthopantomograms. However, values obtained were similar and the study was concluded reporting that there was no significant difference found in value of right and left gonial angles [14].

The gonial angle obtained by panoramic radiography was 2.2-3.6 degrees less than that of lateral cephalogram as said by Fisher-Brandies. In contrast to the results reported in the present study they observed that there are significant differences in the gonial angle obtained by the two different radiographs. As the type of malocclusion and age of the samples was not specified in the study of Fisher-Brandies there was disparity in the results and there was no significant difference found in value of right and

left gonial angles [20] because present study was performed in adults with class I malocclusion

It was concluded that the size of gonial angle can be determined from the orthopantomogram with the same degree of accuracy as from the commonly used lateral cephalogram, the gonial angle being formed by the tangent of the lower border of the mandible and distal border of the ascending ramus and the condyle on each side by Mattila, et al. They avoided the disturbing influences of the superimposed images found on lateral cephalogram by showed that the right and left gonial angles can be easily determined individually from the orthopantomogram. So, it can be proved that the orthopantomogram is the more obvious choice for determination of the gonial angle. There is no significant difference in the values of gonial angle in both the panoramic and lateral cephalograms as shown in the present study.

No statistical difference between the right and left gonial angles in the panoramic radiograph was mentioned in this study. Mattila, et al. reported that, there was not any statistically significant gender differences in the gonial angle determined from the two different types of radiographs [5].

The size of the gonial angle which angle was not statistically significant in any of the three tooth retention categories was not much affected by gender as said by Ohm, et al. [21]. There were no statistically significant differences between the two genders with age ranges of 14-29 years in present study. Clinicians should be vigilant when predicting skeletal cephalometric parameters from panoramic radiographs, because of their lower predictability percentages though panoramic radiographs provide information on the vertical dimensions of craniofacial structures which was concluded by Akcam, et al. [22]. There were no significant differences between the mean values of the external gonial angle in the panoramic radiograph and lateral cephalogram and the mean values of the right and left gonial angles in panoramic radiographs as shown in the result of present study. There will be no considerable effect of gender on the gonial angle in both radiographs so both the radiographs can be used to determine the gonial angle as accurately. The right and left gonial angles can be measured easily without superimposition of

anatomic landmarks in panoramic radiography, which occurs frequently in a lateral cephalogram.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that between the two gender there was no statistically significant difference found in gonial angles obtained from lateral cephalogram and orthopantomogram. In the accuracy of measurement of gonial angle between lateral cephalogram and orthopantomogram there is no statistical significance. The gonial angle can be determined as accurately as a lateral cephalogram by panoramic radiography. Without superimposed images of anatomical structures, the panoramic radiography can be used to determine the gonial angle accurately. Therefore, the Orthopantomogram can be a better choice than a lateral cephalogram.

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