

Original research article

## A Study of Morphometric Study of Orbit in Adult Skulls and CT Images in North Bihar

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### Abstract

**Background and Objective:** The eyes speak without words which enhance the beauty of face. The malposition of eyeballs leads to unacceptable cosmetic problem for the people of both sexes and all age groups. To analyse and compare the morphometric measurements of right and left orbital cavity in adult dry skulls and to see the statistical significance in it. To assess the influence of other parameters over bony orbital volume and to evaluate its significance. **Methods:** The quantitative morphometry of orbital cavity was studied in 40 adult dry skulls and computed tomographic images of brain belonging to 60 patients (30 males and 30 females). Adult dry skulls with intact orbital cavities and the computed tomographic images of brain reported as 'normal study' were only included in this study. At DMCH Darbhanga, Study duration of Two years.

**Conclusion:** The quantitative morphometry of orbital cavity is utmost important without which reconstructive surgeries are not possible. The study of these morphometric parameters in computed tomographic scans is mandatory for the assessment of fractured orbital cavity by comparing it with normal orbital cavity. So in the present study, the morphometry of orbital cavity was studied by two methods.

**Keywords:** CT, congenital orbital dysplasia, orbital fractures and intraorbital tumors, proptosis.

### Introduction

The eyes speak without words which enhance the beauty of face. The malposition of eyeballs leads to unacceptable cosmetic problem for the people of both sexes and all age groups. The word eye constitutes eye ball and orbital cavity<sup>1</sup>. The orbital cavities are intended as a socket for eyeballs, muscles and fascia which keeps the eyeballs in position, nerves and vessels associated with vision, orbital pad of fat and lacrimal apparatus. The eyeballs are situated in anterior one third of orbital cavities. The anterior aspect of eye ball project outside the orbital cavity so that when a needle is passed from lateral orbital margin to bridge of nose, the needle will pass behind the lens. Development of orbit<sup>2</sup>: The development of orbital cavity is

simultaneous process with the development of eye ball which begins during third week of embryonic life, when the embryo is of 2.6mm length. There are four sources contributing to the development of eye ball and orbital cavity. Neuroectoderm of forebrain • Surface ectoderm

#### Paraxial mesoderm

The optic pit appears in the anterior neural folds around 22nd day of fertilization, which invaginate to form optic groove or sulcus. When the embryo is about 3.2mm stage, optic groove further invaginate to form primary optic vesicle. The proximal part of optic vesicle is constricted to form optic stalk. The surface ectoderm which comes in contact with optic vesicle is thickened to form lens placode. The lens placode deepens to form lens pit. As the lens pit get deepened, simultaneous approachment of their edges form spherical lens vesicle<sup>3</sup>. At the same time optic vesicle invaginates to form optic cup to accommodate the spherical lens vesicle. The process of transformation of optic vesicle to optic cup takes place during 4th week (4 – 5 mm stage) to 6th week (15 – 18 mm stage). The mesoderm around the growing eyeball differentiates to form orbital cavity in order to accommodate them. The bony orbital cavities are developed from visceral mesoderm (mesenchyme) of maxillary process and paraxial mesoderm. The mesenchyme of maxillary process forms the floor and lateral wall of orbital cavity. The roof of orbital cavity is formed by paraxial mesoderm which is the part of mesodermal capsule enveloping the brain. The medial wall of orbital cavity is formed from the portion of paraxial mesoderm of lateral nasal process (Cooper WC 1985) During 5th week, the mesoderm differentiates to form muscle cone (extraocular muscle) around the optic cup. The development of bony orbital cavities is in full progress during second month, advanced during third month and well developed at the end of fourth month of intra uterine life. Apart from optic canal the orbital cavity has superior and inferior orbital fissures. The superior orbital fissure is retort shaped gap between posterior aspect of lateral wall and superior wall of orbit through which the orbital cavity communicates with middle cranial fossa<sup>4</sup>. The superior orbital fissure transmits third, fourth and sixth cranial nerves which innervate the extra ocular muscles, recurrent meningeal branch of lacrimal artery, superior and inferior ophthalmic vein. The inferior orbital fissure lies at the junction of posterior aspect of lateral wall and inferior wall of the orbit. The orbital cavity communicates with pterygopalatine fossa and infratemporal fossa respectively through medial and lateral aspect of inferior orbital fissure. The fissure transmits inferior orbital vessels and nerves, zygomatic nerve and orbital branch of pterygopalatine ganglion. The direct measurement in dry skulls stands as an accurate method to study the quantitative morphometry of orbital cavities<sup>5</sup>. But there is a need to study the quantitative morphometry of orbital cavity in living people for assessing the deformed orbit and to plan the reconstructive surgery.

#### Objectives

To analyse and compare the morphometric measurements of right and left orbital cavity in adult dry skulls and to see the statistical significance in it. • To assess the influence of other parameters over bony orbital volume and to evaluate its significance

To analyse and compare the quantitative morphometry of right and left orbital cavity in high resolution computerized tomographic scans and to observe the statistical significance in it.

#### Material and Method

The quantitative morphometry of orbital cavity was studied in 40 adult dry skulls and computed tomographic images of brain belonging to 60 patients (30 males and 30 females). Adult dry skulls with intact orbital cavities and the computed tomographic images of brain

reported as 'normal study' were only included in this study. At Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital Darbhanga, Study duration of Two years.

The patients with any disease affecting eye and orbital cavity such as thyroid disease, Intraorbital tumor and congenital abnormalities like microphthalmia, anophthalmia and orbitofacial cleft were excluded from the study. The study was conducted after obtaining approval from ethics committee of institution. In both dry bone study and radiological study, twelve parameters were measured. They were orbital height, orbital breadth, orbital index, length of superior wall, length of inferior wall, length of medial wall, length of lateral wall, interorbital distance, biorbital distance, orbital rim perimeter, orbital foramen area and bony orbital volume. In adult dry skulls, measurements were taken by using digital vernier caliper. The following points were marked over the orbital margins of skulls, between which the measurements were taken

1. A point MF was marked on the medial orbital margin over maxillofrontal suture. 2. A point EC was marked on the lateral orbital margin over ectoconchion. The point ectoconchion was defined as the anterior most point on the lateral orbital margin intersected by the horizontal bisecting line of orbital cavity. 3. A point SO was marked on the supraorbital margin, over the point of intersection of supraorbital margin and perpendicular bisector of the line joining MF and EC. 4. A point IO was marked on the infraorbital margin, over the point of intersection of infraorbital margin and perpendicular bisector of the line joining MF and EC. The length of superior wall was measured as the distance from the marked point on the supraorbital margin to the superior most point on the superior border of optic foramen. The length of inferior wall was measured as the distance from the marked point on the infraorbital margin to the inferior most point on the inferior border of optic foramen. The length of medial wall was measured as the distance from the marked point on the medial orbital margin to the medial most point on the medial border of optic foramen. The length of lateral wall was measured as the distance from the marked point on the lateral orbital margin to the lateral most point on the lateral border of optic foramen. In computerized tomographic images of brain, measurements were taken in bone window by using MM basic 3D application. This application showed axial, coronal and sagittal view of two dimensional image along with three dimensional image in one screen. In this application, when the required point was marked in three dimensional image, it would appear in all the three views of two dimensional images.

The same points described in dry bone study were marked in three dimensional image and subsequently in all the views of two dimensional images by using 3D reference point. Then the measurements were taken in two dimensional images between the marked points. These sections of two dimensional images chosen for measurement were the axial and the sagittal section which showed the orbital cavity with its full depth up to the optic foramen and the coronal sections which showed continuous orbital margins. Interorbital distance was measured in coronal view as the distance between the marked points on the medial orbital margin of right and left orbital cavities. Biorbital distance was measured in coronal view as the distance between the marked points on the lateral orbital margin of right and left orbital cavities.

## Results

These results were obtained after the direct measurement in eighty orbital cavities of forty human adult dry skulls by using digital vernier caliper. The quantitative morphometry of right and left orbital cavities were studied individually and analysed statistically.

The mean and standard deviation of orbital height for eighty orbital cavities was  $32.64\text{mm} \pm 1.39\text{mm}$ . The mean and standard deviation of orbital height for right and left orbital cavities were  $32.65\text{mm} \pm 1.33\text{mm}$  and  $32.62\text{mm} \pm 1.47\text{mm}$  respectively. The mean and standard deviation of orbital breadth for eighty orbital cavities was  $40.41\text{mm} \pm 1.44\text{mm}$ . The mean and standard deviation of orbital breadth for right and left orbital cavities were  $40.50\text{mm} \pm 1.55\text{mm}$  and  $40.33\text{mm} \pm 1.34\text{mm}$  respectively. The

mean and standard deviation of orbital index for eighty orbital cavities was  $80.80 \pm 2.61$ . The mean and standard deviation of orbital index for right and left orbital cavities were  $80.65 \pm 2.60$  and  $80.96 \pm 2.64$  respectively. The mean orbital index of both right and left orbital cavities was  $\leq 83$ . This classified the orbital cavity of South Indian population under microseme category.

In right orbital cavities, orbital index was  $\leq 83$  in 31 orbital cavities and the orbital index was between 83 to 89 in 9 orbital cavities. This classified 77.5% of right orbital cavities under microseme category and 22.5% under mesoseme category. In left orbital cavities, orbital index was  $\leq 83$  in 32 orbital cavities and the orbital index was between 83 to 89 in 8 orbital cavities. This classified 80% of left orbital cavities under microseme category and 20% under mesoseme category. No orbital cavity had orbital index  $\geq 89$ . So no orbital cavity was classified under megaseme category. The mean superior wall length for eighty orbital cavities was 52.04 mm and its standard deviation was 2.50 mm. For right and left orbital cavities the mean and standard deviation of superior wall length was  $51.97 \text{ mm} \pm 2.54 \text{ mm}$  and  $52.10 \text{ mm} \pm 2.49 \text{ mm}$  respectively.

The bony orbital volume was correlated with other parameters by using Pearson Correlation Test.

### Radiological Results

The measurements were taken in two dimensional computerized tomographic images of sixty patients (30 males and 30 females) comprising 120 orbital cavities. The study of quantitative orbital morphometry in computerized tomographic scans is very essential for diagnosis of orbital fractures, planning of surgery and prediction of outcome after reconstructive surgery. The mean orbital height for 120 orbital cavities was 3.19 cm and its standard deviation was 0.14 cm. For right and left orbital cavities the mean and standard deviation of orbital height was  $3.18 \text{ cm} \pm 0.13 \text{ cm}$  and  $3.19 \text{ cm} \pm 0.14 \text{ cm}$  respectively. The mean and standard deviation of orbital height for male was observed as  $3.22 \text{ cm} \pm 0.13 \text{ cm}$ . It was observed as  $3.21 \text{ cm} \pm 0.13 \text{ cm}$  and  $3.23 \text{ cm} \pm 0.13 \text{ cm}$  in male right and left orbital cavities respectively. The mean and standard deviation of orbital height for female was observed as  $3.15 \text{ cm} \pm 0.14 \text{ cm}$ . It was observed as  $3.15 \text{ cm} \pm 0.13 \text{ cm}$  and  $3.16 \text{ cm} \pm 0.14 \text{ cm}$  in female right and left orbital cavities respectively. The mean and standard deviation of orbital breadth for 120 orbital cavities was  $3.99 \text{ cm} \pm 0.14 \text{ cm}$ . For right and left orbital cavities the mean and standard deviation of orbital breadth was  $3.99 \text{ cm} \pm 0.16 \text{ cm}$  and  $3.99 \text{ cm} \pm 0.12 \text{ cm}$  respectively.

The mean and standard deviation of orbital breadth for male was observed as  $4.02 \text{ cm} \pm 0.09 \text{ cm}$ . It was observed as  $4.02 \text{ cm} \pm 0.10 \text{ cm}$  and  $4.02 \text{ cm} \pm 0.09 \text{ cm}$  in male right and left orbital cavities respectively. The mean and standard deviation of orbital breadth for female was observed as  $3.96 \text{ cm} \pm 0.17 \text{ cm}$ . It was observed as  $3.96 \text{ cm} \pm 0.19 \text{ cm}$  and  $3.97 \text{ cm} \pm 0.14 \text{ cm}$  in female right and left orbital cavities respectively. The mean and standard deviation of orbital index for 120 orbital cavities was  $79.68 \pm 2.53$ . For right and left orbital cavities the mean and standard deviation of orbital index was  $79.46 \pm 2.52$  and  $79.89 \pm 2.55$  respectively. The mean orbital index of both right and left orbital cavities was  $\leq 83$ . This classified the orbital cavity of South Indian population under microseme category.

### Discussion

The quantitative orbital morphometry is of utmost importance for planning reconstructive surgeries of orbital cavity. Since the orbital cavity showed regional, racial and ethnic variations the knowledge of quantitative morphometry of orbital cavity is mandatory for each individual population.

#### Orbital Height and Orbital Breadth:

According to the study of Sangvichien S (2007) in Thai population, the mean orbital height for male and female was 33.44 mm and 32.89 mm respectively. The mean orbital breadth for male and female was 40.10 mm and 38.09 mm respectively. The study of Ukoha U (2011)<sup>6</sup> in Nigerian population reported that the mean orbital height of right orbital cavity was  $31.90 \text{ mm} \pm 0.70 \text{ mm}$  and left orbital cavity was  $31.45 \text{ mm} \pm 0.71 \text{ mm}$ . The mean orbital breadth of right orbital cavity was  $36.03 \text{ mm} \pm 0.37 \text{ mm}$  and

for orbital cavity was  $34.98\text{mm} \pm 0.38\text{mm}$ . Fetouh FA (2014) reported that the average orbital height in Egyptian male and female was  $35.57\text{mm} \pm 1.37\text{mm}$  and  $35.12\text{mm} \pm 1.10\text{mm}$  respectively. The average orbital breadth in Egyptian male and female was  $43.25\text{mm} \pm 1.25\text{mm}$  and  $42.37\text{mm} \pm 1.39\text{mm}$  respectively. Kaur (2012)<sup>7</sup> reported that for north Indian population, the mean orbital height was  $31.9\text{mm} \pm 2.2\text{mm}$  and  $32.2\text{mm} \pm 1.8\text{mm}$  for right and left sided orbital cavity respectively. The mean orbital breadth for right and left orbital cavity was  $39.7\text{mm} \pm 2.2\text{mm}$  and  $38.8\text{mm} \pm 3.1\text{mm}$  respectively. According to the study of Howale DS (2012)<sup>8</sup> in Maharashtra region, the mean orbital height was  $3.11\text{cm}$  and the mean orbital breadth was  $3.62\text{cm}$ . Patil GV (2014)<sup>9</sup> reported that the average orbital height of male and female was  $34.04\text{mm} \pm 3.12\text{mm}$  and  $32.12\text{mm} \pm 2.89\text{mm}$  respectively. The mean orbital width of male and female was  $41.89\text{mm} \pm 2.34\text{mm}$  and  $39.02\text{mm} \pm 3.08\text{mm}$  respectively. According to the study of Gosavi SN (2014)<sup>10</sup> in Indian population, the mean orbital height was  $32.31\text{mm} \pm 2.52\text{mm}$  and the mean orbital width was  $39.46\text{mm} \pm 2.57\text{mm}$ . The study of Kumar A (2014)<sup>11</sup> in Indian population stated that the mean orbital height of left and right orbital cavity was  $33.56\text{mm} \pm 1.54\text{mm}$  and  $33.47\text{mm} \pm 1.56\text{mm}$  respectively. The mean orbital width of left and right orbital cavity was  $41.88\text{mm} \pm 1.73\text{mm}$  and  $42.06\text{mm} \pm 1.69\text{mm}$  respectively. The study of Mekala D (2015) in south Indian population stated that the mean orbital height of male and female was  $3.62\text{cm} \pm 0.23\text{cm}$  and  $3.45\text{cm} \pm 0.2\text{cm}$  respectively. The mean orbital breadth of male and female was  $4.29\text{cm} \pm 0.27\text{cm}$  and  $4.05\text{cm} \pm 0.24\text{cm}$  respectively.

### RADIOLOGICAL STUDY

**Orbital Height and Orbital Breadth:** Weaver AA (2010) reported that the mean orbital height in male and female was  $32.44\text{mm}$  and  $31.75\text{mm}$ . The mean orbital breadth in male and female was  $37.42\text{mm}$  and  $36.60\text{mm}$ . Ji Y (2010)<sup>12</sup>

reported that the mean orbital height of Chinese men and women was  $33.35\text{mm}$  and  $33.22\text{mm}$  respectively. The mean orbital breadth of Chinese men and women was  $40.02\text{mm}$  and  $38.00\text{mm}$  respectively.

In the present study, the mean orbital height of male and female was  $3.22\text{cm}$  and  $3.15\text{cm}$  respectively which was similar to the study of Weaver AA and Ji Y. According to the present study, the mean orbital breadth of male and female was  $4.02\text{cm}$  and  $3.96\text{cm}$  respectively. It was similar to the study of Ji Y and lesser than Weaver AA.

The mean bony orbital volume for group I (25 to 35 years), group II (36 to 50 years) and group III (51 to 65 years) patients was  $23.11\text{cm}^3 \pm 2.30\text{cm}^3$ ,  $24.14\text{cm}^3 \pm 2.55\text{cm}^3$  and  $25.33\text{cm}^3 \pm 3.09\text{cm}^3$  respectively. The mean bony orbital showed statistical significant increase from group I to group III.

There was significant positive correlation found between the age and bony orbital volume which was similar to the study of Furuta M.

### Conclusion

The quantitative morphometry of orbital cavity is utmost important without which reconstructive surgeries are not possible. The study of these morphometric parameters in computed tomographic scans is mandatory for the assessment of fractured orbital cavity by comparing it with normal orbital cavity. So in the present study, the morphometry of orbital cavity was studied by two methods.

The accurate correction of orbital volume to pretraumatic state is very essential in the reconstructive surgeries to avoid any orbital asymmetry. In the present study the bony orbital volume was measured in two dimensional computed tomographic images by using a software program.

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