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Some Innovative Evolutions in Surgery of the Cranio-Maxillofacial Skeleton

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by

Hugo L. Obwegeser M.D., D.M.D.

Introduction

The following remarks were presented on a lecture at the general meeting of the AAOMFS in October 2015 in Washington DC. As the first invitation to the American Association was in 1966 by its President General Bob Shira, this was my last talk in the United States at the age of 95 years.

The background for new procedures

Many young colleagues have asked me for my interests in my life but my profession, because I had published so many new ideas. My answer was always and is still the same: I am certain that I am not more intelligent than anyone of them. I had plenty of hobbies: I liked skiing and hunting and river-fishing and antiques and as a young man I had the same special interest in females as any real young man will have. But besides these hobbies I trained for two years in general pathology and pathophysiology and microbiology at the famous Rokitansky Institute for pathology in Vienna under the world famous professor Hermann von Chiari, and for two years in surgery, one of them in plastic surgery in two different institutions. I also trained in every section of dentistry as an instructor for half a year. This multilateral training has allowed me to recognise existing problems and to find solutions for them.

The sagittal splitting procedure came due to my main teacher in maxillofacial surgery, Professor Richard Trauner. He was not satisfied with the late results of the correction of our prognathic cases by the KostECKA procedure and asked me to think of another technique which would guarantee early bony union through broad contacting raw bone surfaces. Through his request I found the idea of the transoral splitting technique of the rami of the mandible.

The birth of the Le Fort I – Mobilisation

Trauner stated, there was a strong need for repositioning the maxilla, but so far no accurate procedure for that request existed. For me, it was clear that when trauma can dislodge the maxilla without any

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