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Surgical Techniques of Gummy Smile Correction

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INTRODUCTION

When a patient smiles, not only upper teeth are exposed but also, excessive amount of gingiva is displayed. This defective and disharmonious smile is known as Gummy Smile. Gummy Smile or Excessive gingival display is classified as a mucogingival deformity and condition around teeth (Cortellini & Bissada, 2018).



Fig1. Gummy Smile

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gummy_smile#/media/File:Gummy_Smile.jpg

It might be a source of discomfort and embarrassment for patients; therefore, an esthetic correction is needed. One of the innovative and recommended treatments is lip repositioning. It's a surgical technique that restricts the muscle pull and locates the upper lip in a lower position to hide excessive gingiva while smiling.

Although this latest method has shown promising results, long-term stability still a matter of debate.

Background

- Unbalanced smile can greatly alter facial attractiveness.
- According to the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry survey, "eighty-six percent of patients elect cosmetic treatment to improve physical attractiveness and self-esteem" (2015, page 26).
- Prevalence of Gummy smile type according to a study of gummy smile in a Tunisian orthodontic population (2017).

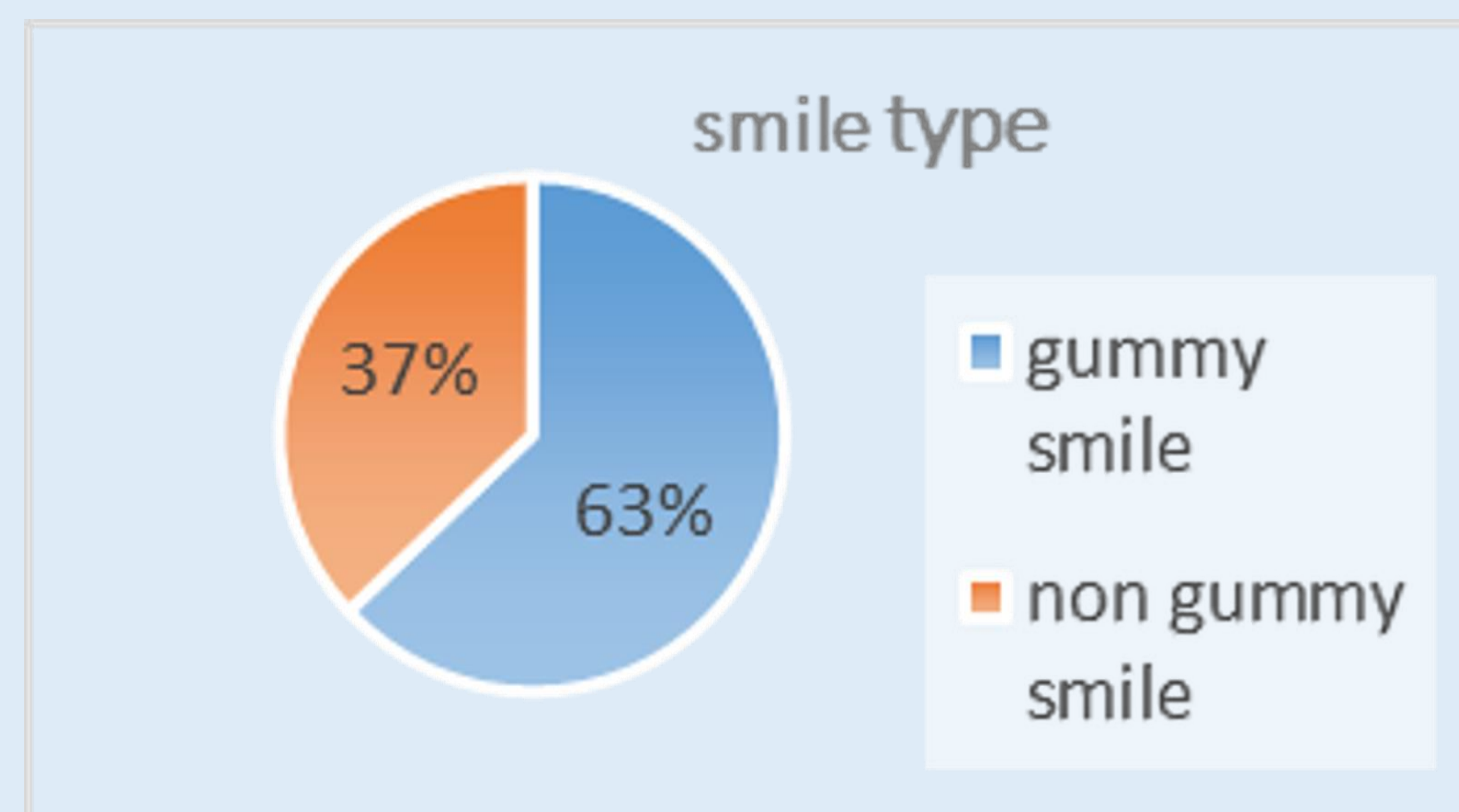


Fig2. Smile type distribution in the sample

Source: <https://www.slideshare.net/RaniaRebai/thesis-a-study-of-gummy-smile-in-a-tunisian-orthodontic-population>

Surgical Procedure:

- Extraoral and intraoral disinfection
- Administration of local anesthesia
- Use of sterile and indelible pencil to mark incision outline
- Two parallel incisions are made and creating an elliptical outline
- Epithelium excision within the outline of incision
- Approximating incision lines with sutures

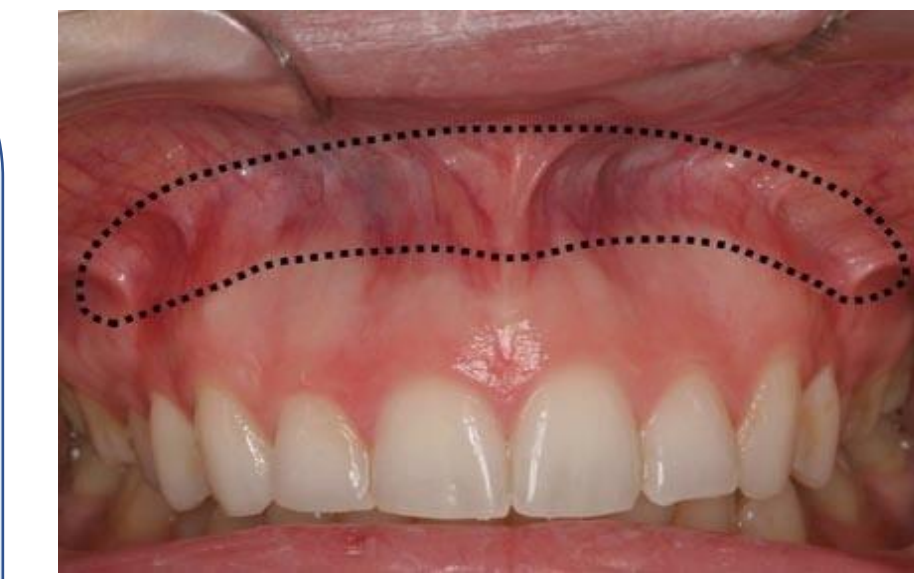


Fig3. Retracted view with digitally created outline

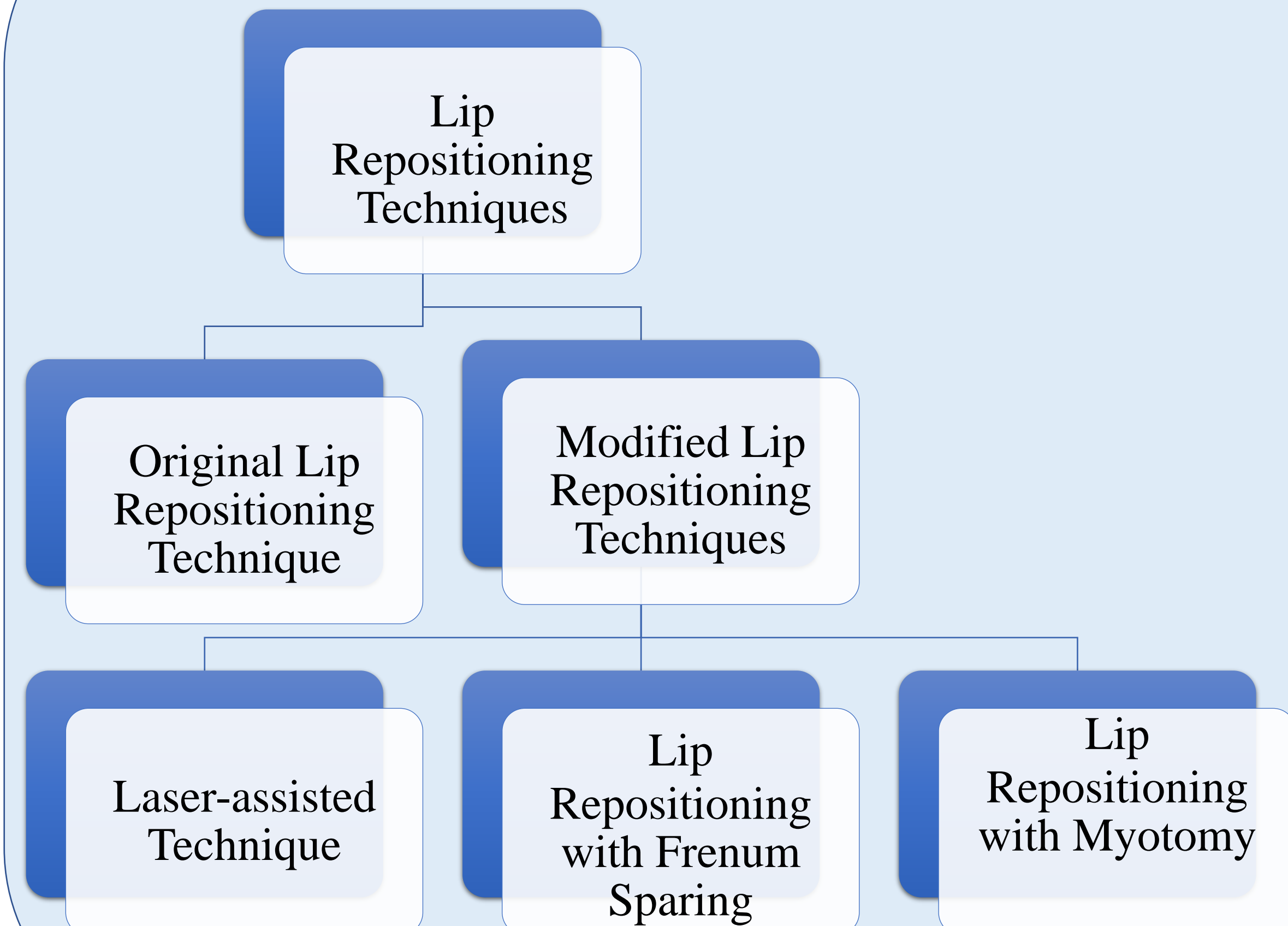
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Fig4. Exposed submucosa after removal of the epithelial discard

Source: <file:///C:/Users/asus/Downloads/23-1simon.pdf>

Types of lip Repositioning Techniques



This technique seems to be working and gives satisfactory results. **However**, is it permanent? Is there any chance of recurrence?

Relapse of the upper lip into original position is quite possible. Thus, the use of botox injections was introduced as an alternative. Botulinum toxin can restrict upper lip muscle movement and results in transient paralysis.



CONCLUSION

In order to overcome the issue of facial alteration related to gummy smile, lip repositioning technique can be performed. The surgical procedure limits gum exposure and gives an attractive smile. Due to instability, the reversible surgical treatment is replaced by a simple and non-invasive method which is Botox.

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