

Enabling the disabled: The visually impaired friendly drug label

Muhammad Azzim Izuddin

Pharmaceutical Service Division, Pahang State Health Department, Malaysia

SUMMARY

The Visually Impaired Friendly Drug Label is an innovation product from the collaboration of the Pharmacy Services Division, Pahang State Health Department and 'Pertubuhan Pembangunan Orang Buta Malaysia' (PPOBM) to help visually impaired patients when receiving medication at the health clinic. This label makes it easier for the visually impaired to obtain accurate drug information. Clear medication information will ensure patient compliance with medication intake and improve treatment effectiveness. Labels are printed with Braille writing for 15 types of drug indications and 15 types of drug intake including tablet and syrup preparations. The instructions for the dose were changed in the code so that the sticker could fit in the small area on the existing drug label provided. For example, instructions for a medication for 'one tablet to be taken three times a day' are printed as 1/3. All medication labels (seven acute diseases and eight chronic diseases) and the way of taking the medicine are printed on the sticker separately. These stickers help make it easier for visually impaired patients to identify the name and brand of the medication they are receiving and to be able to read the instructions correctly when they are at home. Braille drug labels were launched on 6 January 2023 by the Malaysian Health Minister and have been distributed to 250 selected health facilities in Malaysia benefiting 55,000 visually impaired people in Malaysia. Malaysia was one of the first countries in Asia to introduce visually impaired medicine labels. This reflects the seriousness and concern of the government to ensure that people with disabilities have the right to receive accurate information about medicines.

SY10

Facial harmonization: Team approach

Mohd Rosli Yahya

Oral and Maxillofacial Department, Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia

SUMMARY

Facial harmonization or facial balance is very important in determining the good function and aesthetic of the facial region. The relation of facial soft tissues, dentition and facial skeleton are playing a major role in function and aesthetic. Good in food chewing (mastication), good word pronunciation in speech, health of the temporo-mandibular joint, and aesthetic is achieved in facial harmonization. A dentoalveolar malocclusion refers to bite misalignment due to crooked or incorrectly positioned teeth. Skeletal malocclusions caused by distorted shape and/or size of the jawbones. Any discrepancies of soft tissues, dentition and facial skeleton need a correction and intervention by the interdisciplinary specialist namely Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon and orthodontist. Teeth malocclusion, crowding, misalignment corrected with the braces followed by the orthognathic surgery. Orthodontists will align both dental arches (with or without tooth extraction), levelling of both dental arches, decompensation of any dental compensations and coordination of dental arches. Then followed by Orthognathic surgery by the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. Orthognathic surgery is a versatile surgery, which is a combination of science and art for correction of teeth position and facial skeleton discrepancies. Reposition of maxilla by Le Fort I, Le Fort II or Le Fort III osteotomy. Reposition of mandible via bilateral sagittal split osteotomy. Anterior segmental for correction of anterior dentoalveolar segment. Chin correction by genioplasty. The movement of the maxilla and mandible could be done in 3 planes direction either in vertical, horizontal, or antero-posterior to achieve facial balance.