Para commissural cleft of the lower lip: a first world case described in the literature

Clefts of lower lip and mandible are extremely rare, with less than 100 cases reported in the literature. Almost universally, these isolated cases of lower facial cleft occur through the midline of the lip and/or mandible because of the etiopathogenesis corresponding to a lack of fusion between first pharyngeal arches. These are Tessier's 30 clefts.

We described the first world case of para-commissural cleft of the lower lip in a 2 year-old child. He is from a trichorionic triamniotic triplet pregnancy after ovarian stimulation. He has no history except a selective fetal reduction of the mother. We correct this cleft of the lower lip with a double plasty of Malek. The functional and aesthetic result is satisfactory. This particular cleft can not be explained by the embryological theory. We favor two hypothesis to explain this anomaly: a vascular origin with the stapedial artery and the selective fetal reduction. No article in the world literature reports a case of cleft induced by multifetal pregnancy reduction. So, we asked ourself about the fetal reduction as etiology of facial clefts.