

**Initial Clinical Evaluation of Soft  
Tissue Wounds In Maxillofacial  
Trauma  
( prospective study )**

*A THESIS*

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## **Abstract**

Trauma to the maxillofacial region mandates special attention , as within the face there are systems that control specialized functions including seeing , hearing , smelling , breathing , eating , and talking , also the vital structures in the head and neck region are intimately associated , lastly the psychological impact of disfigurement can be devastating .

The current study aims to identify the best way for soft tissue wounds management ( primary , secondary , or delay primary closure of the wounds ) , and to decrease the time of patients management in the emergency room for better results .

This prospective study performed on 126 patients with different severity of facial injuries attended to AL-Wasity hospital in Baghdad in the period from 23 January 2007 to the end of September 2007 .

The study found that facial soft tissue wounds more commonly occur during the third and fourth decades of life with 2.7 : 1 male/female ratio and shell injuries ( 38.8% ) were the most common etiological factor.

This study depended on a detailed history and careful extra and intra oral examination and to a minor degree on radiographical examination ( postero-anterior view of the mandible and occipitomenal view ) .

The study adopted the classification of wounds types depended by **Russell et al , 2004** .

From a total of 126 patients with facial injuries 89( 70.6% ) patients had compound soft tissue wounds , while the solitary types were much less , and we had found that the majority of patients with

maxillofacial trauma had fractured facial bones associated with the soft tissue wounds ( 62.6% ) .

The study demonstrate that from 126 patients the largest percentage of those patients 103(81.74%) need no urgent surgical intervention at the time of presentation of the patients to the hospital , and 94( 74.6% ) patients treated by secondary closure .

This study reported that a large percentage of patients who continue their treatment in the hospital had acquired infection from the hospital ( nosocomial infections ) during the course of treatment , and the percentage of those patients was ( 36.36% ) .