



Virtual Orthognathic Surgery: A Retrospective 3D Analysis of Surgical Planning vs. Postoperative Outcomes

Sanal Ortognatik Cerrahi: Cerrahi Planlama ve Postoperatif Sonuçların Retrospektif 3B Analizi

¹ Taha PERGEL¹, ² Emine Fulya AKKOYUN¹, ³ Tuğba KUŞLU², ⁴ Esra Saliha YÖRÜK³

¹Bezmialem Vakıf University Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, İstanbul, Türkiye

²Private Practice, İstanbul, Türkiye

³Bezmialem Vakıf University, Institute of Health Sciences, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, İstanbul, Türkiye

ABSTRACT

Objective: Orthognathic surgery addresses facial deformities by improving both function and aesthetics, with its success relying heavily on accurate planning. This study aimed to assess the long-term accuracy of virtual surgical planning (VSP) by comparing three-dimensional (3D) preoperative virtual models with actual postoperative outcomes and identifying regions prone to deviation.

Methods: A retrospective study was conducted and approved by the Ethics Committee of Bezmialem Vakıf University. Patients who underwent bimaxillary surgery for Class II or III malocclusion and had postoperative computed tomography scans ≥ 6 months later were included. VSP was performed using NemoFab software. Standardized Le Fort I and bilateral sagittal split ramus osteotomies were conducted. The preoperative virtual planning model and the postoperative surgical model were aligned using surface-based registration in 3-matic and analyzed in Mimics. Linear and directional (sagittal, coronal, axial) deviations were measured at cephalometric landmarks, and 3D color-coded deviation maps were generated with a ± 2 mm threshold. Distance differences between 15 cephalometric points on preoperative planning and postoperative models were statistically analyzed using a one-sample t-test.

Results: Forty-two patients (aged 18–40) were included. The mean deviation was 2.19 ± 0.82 mm. Significant deviations (>2 mm, $p < 0.05$) were found at anterior nasal spine (ANS), posterior nasal

ÖZ

Amaç: Ortognatik cerrahi, işlev ve estetiği iyileştirerek yüz deformitelerini düzeltmeyi amaçlar ve başarısı büyük ölçüde doğru cerrahi planlamaya bağlıdır. Bu çalışmanın amacı, sanal cerrahi planlamanın (SCP) uzun dönem doğruluğunu değerlendirmek ve sapmalara en yakın anatomik bölgeleri belirlemektir.

Yöntemler: Bezmialem Vakıf Üniversitesi Etik Kurulu onayıyla yürütülen retrospektif çalışmaya, 18–40 yaş aralığında, Sınıf II veya III maloklüzyon nedeniyle bimaxiller cerrahi geçiren ve ameliyattan en az 6 ay sonra postoperatif bilgisayarlı tomografi görüntüleri alınmış hastalar dahil edildi. SCP NemoFab yazılımı ile yapıldı. Tüm hastalara standart Le Fort I ve bilateral sagittal split ramus osteotomisi uygulandı. Preoperatif ve postoperatif üç boyutlu (3B) modeller 3-matic yazılımında yüzey tabanlı çıkartırma yöntemiyle hizalanarak Mimics yazılımında analiz edildi. Seçilen sefalometrik referans noktalar arasında doğrusal ve yönsel (sagittal, koronal, aksiyel) sapmalar ölçüldü. ± 2 mm eşik değeri kullanılarak renk kodlu 3B sapma haritaları oluşturuldu. Preoperatif planlama ve postoperatif sonuç modellerinde belirlenen 15 sefalometrik nokta arasındaki mesafe farkları, tek örneklem t-testi ile istatistiksel olarak karşılaştırıldı.

Bulgular: Çalışmaya 18–45 yaş arası 42 hasta dahil edildi. Ortalama toplam sapma $2,19 \pm 0,82$ mm olarak bulundu. Ön nazal spina (ANS), arka nazal spina (PNS) ve tüm yönlerdeki sapmalar 2 mm'den büyük olup istatistiksel olarak anlamlıydı ($p < 0,05$).

Address for Correspondence: Asst. Prof. Emine Fulya Akkoyun, Bezmialem Vakıf University Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, İstanbul, Türkiye

E-mail: efulyaakkoyun@hotmail.com

ORCID IDs of the authors: T.P.: 0000-0001-8154-8606, E.F.A.: 0000-0003-4154-2503, T.K.: 0000-0003-1701-2684, E.S.Y.: 0009-0006-4655-8730

Cite this article as: Pergel T, Akkoyun EF, Kuşlu T, Yörük ES. Virtual orthognathic surgery: a retrospective 3D analysis of surgical planning vs. postoperative outcomes. Bezmialem Science. [Epub Ahead of Print]

Received: 19.06.2025

Accepted: 17.09.2025

Epub: 07.01.2026



ABSTRACT

spine (PNS), and across all spatial planes. No significant differences were observed based on sex, skeletal class, or surgical sequence. Most discrepancies occurred in the anterior maxilla, chin, and posterior mandible. Preoperative asymmetry and pogonion deviation were not predictive of discrepancies. Intraclass correlation coefficient values >0.90 confirmed measurement reliability.

Conclusion: VSP shows high overall accuracy; however, ANS and PNS remain prone to deviation, warranting further investigation in larger studies.

Keywords: Orthognathic surgery, virtual surgical planning, computer-assisted surgery, surgical outcome evaluation

ÖZ

Cinsiyet, iskelet sınıfı ve cerrahi sıralama ile sapma arasında anlamlı fark saptanmadı. En belirgin sapmalar ön maksilla, çene ucu ve posterior mandibula bölgelerinde gözlemlendi. Preoperatif asimetri ve pogonion sapması, postoperatif sapmalarla ilişkili değildi. Tekrarlanan ölçümlerde sınıf içi korelasyon katsayısı değerlerinin $>0,90$ olması, analizlerin güvenilirliğini destekledi.

Sonuç: VSP genel olarak yüksek doğruluk sunmaktadır; ancak ANS ve PNS gibi belirli bölgeler sapmalara daha yatkındır ve bu bulguların daha geniş örneklemli çalışmalarla araştırılması gerekmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ortognatik cerrahi, sanal cerrahi planlama, bilgisayar destekli cerrahi, cerrahi sonuç değerlendirmesi

Introduction

The primary goal of orthognathic surgery is to correct facial deformities and improve both functional and aesthetic concerns. Its success depends not only on surgical techniques but also on precise and detailed treatment planning (1). With advancements in modern technology, orthognathic surgery planning has evolved into a three-dimensional (3D) virtual process. Using 3D imaging and digitally reconstructed models, surgeons can anticipate potential intraoperative challenges and predict postoperative outcomes more accurately (2-4). Virtual surgical planning (VSP) allows for a highly accurate visualization of the jawbones and surrounding anatomical structures, reducing the risk of complications such as unfavorable fractures, nerve injuries, or malunions during surgery. Furthermore, VSP aids in determining whether additional procedures are necessary, allowing patients to be informed in advance. A linear difference of 2 mm or less and an angular difference of 4 degrees or less between the VSP and the actual postoperative outcome are widely regarded as acceptable thresholds for clinical accuracy. At the same time, exceeding these values are typically considered to be clinically significant (5-8).

Several studies have compared orthognathic surgery outcomes with VSP (2,7,9). However, few have clearly identified the specific anatomical regions where discrepancies occur between the virtual plan and the postoperative outcome. This study aims to evaluate the long-term accuracy of VSP by comparing 3D models representing the preoperative virtual plans and actual postoperative jaw positions, and to identify specific anatomical regions where deviations commonly occur between planned and actual outcomes.

Methods**Study Design/Sample**

A retrospective study was designed and approved by the Ethics Committee of Bezmialem Vakıf University (decision no: 2023/202, date: 14.07.2023). Informed consent was waived due to the retrospective design. Patients aged 18 to 40 years who underwent bimaxillary orthognathic surgery for Class II or III dentofacial deformities and had a postoperative computed

tomography (CT) scan taken at least six months after surgery between 2020 and 2023 were included in the study. VSP was performed using the NemoFab software (Nemotec, Madrid, Spain; 2020), and surgical splints were used during the procedure. All patients underwent Le Fort I osteotomy and bilateral sagittal split ramus osteotomy, performed by the same surgical team using a standardized technique.

Additional inclusion criteria were:

- Presence of a sufficient number of teeth to ensure preoperative and postoperative occlusal stability
- At least two occlusal contact points on both sides (tripod contact)
- Rigid fixation in all segments
- Adherence to a standardized protocol for preoperative and postoperative CT imaging

Patients were excluded if they:

- Underwent single-jaw surgery or genioplasty in addition to bimaxillary orthognathic surgery
- Had facial deformities due to trauma, cleft lip and palate
- Underwent orthognathic surgery using the model surgery technique
- Had a history of temporomandibular joint disorders or autoimmune diseases
- Lacked VSP records via NemoFab software

Tomographic Data Collection and 3D Model Analysis

3D models obtained from the preoperative VSP of patients meeting the inclusion criteria, representing the predicted postoperative positions of the jaws were generated and exported in standard tessellation language (STL) format. Subsequently, postoperative CT scans obtained at the 6-month follow-up for these patients were recorded in digital imaging and communications in medicine format. These data were imported into Mimics Innovation Suite software (Materialise, Belgium, v.21.0). Postoperative 3D craniofacial models were

reconstructed and exported in STL format. Both preoperative and postoperative 3D models were then imported into 3-matic software (Materialise, Belgium, v.13.0). At least 10 distinct and identical anatomical landmarks on skull were selected on both the preoperative and postoperative models, and the surface-based registration method was used. The registered models were then transferred back to Mimics software, where cephalometric landmarks were identified. The selected cephalometric landmarks included:

- Maxillary and mandibular dental midlines
- Anterior nasal spine (ANS) and posterior nasal spine (PNS)
- Cusps of the right and left upper and lower canines
- Mesiobuccal cusps of the right and left upper and lower first molars
- Pogonion, A point, and B point

The linear distances between corresponding points on the preoperative and postoperative models were measured and recorded. Additionally, the 3D coordinates of each landmark were determined, and distance differences in the sagittal, coronal, and axial directions were calculated separately (Figure 1). Preoperative mandibular asymmetry, maxillary and mandibular midline deviations, and pogonion deviation were measured. The presence of preoperative mandibular asymmetry was recorded. The “create

part comparison analysis” function in 3-matic software was used to visualize the discrepancies between the aligned models. 3D color-coded deviation maps were generated to represent the degree of surface deviations. A ± 2 mm (5) threshold was set to define the range of deviations for the color mapping. The maxillomandibular complex was divided into six regions: chin, right or left posterior mandible, anterior maxilla, and right or left posterior maxilla. The most significant discrepancy region was identified and noted for each model (Figure 2). A single observer performed all measurements. To assess intra-observer reliability, 20% of all measurements were randomly selected and repeated by the same observer after a minimum two-week interval. Intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) were calculated for each cephalometric point and deviation measurement to evaluate the repeatability of the measurements.

Variables

The primary outcome variables included location of discrepancies, total, maxillary, and mandibular deviation amounts, as well as deviations at cephalometric points between the planned and actual postoperative measurements. Patient characteristics were recorded as potential influencing factors: age, sex, skeletal malocclusion type (Class II or Class III), surgical sequencing (maxilla-first or mandible-first approach). Patients were divided into two groups based on whether their deviation amounts were less than or greater than 2 mm (5).

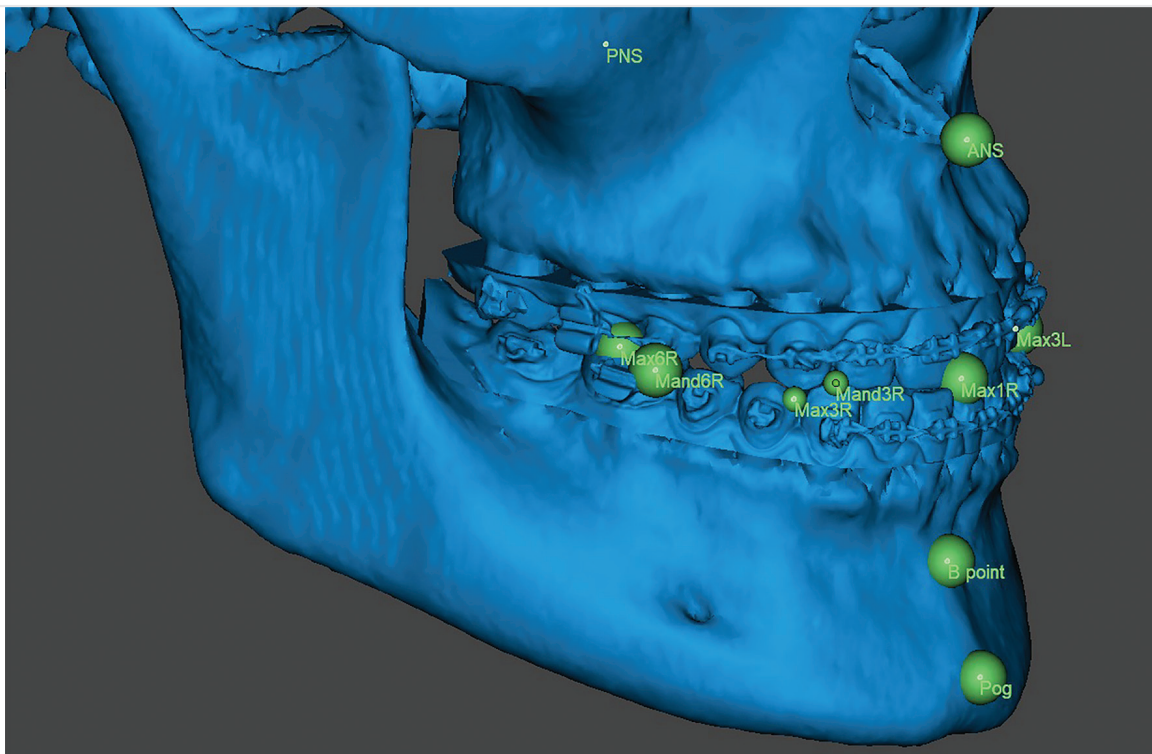


Figure 1. Three-dimensional representation of the cephalometric landmarks marked on both the preoperative (planned) and postoperative virtual models. The 3D coordinates of each landmark were identified, and distance differences between the planned and postoperative positions were measured separately in the sagittal, coronal, and axial planes

ANS: Anterior nasal spine, PNS: Posterior nasal spine, 3D: Three-dimensional

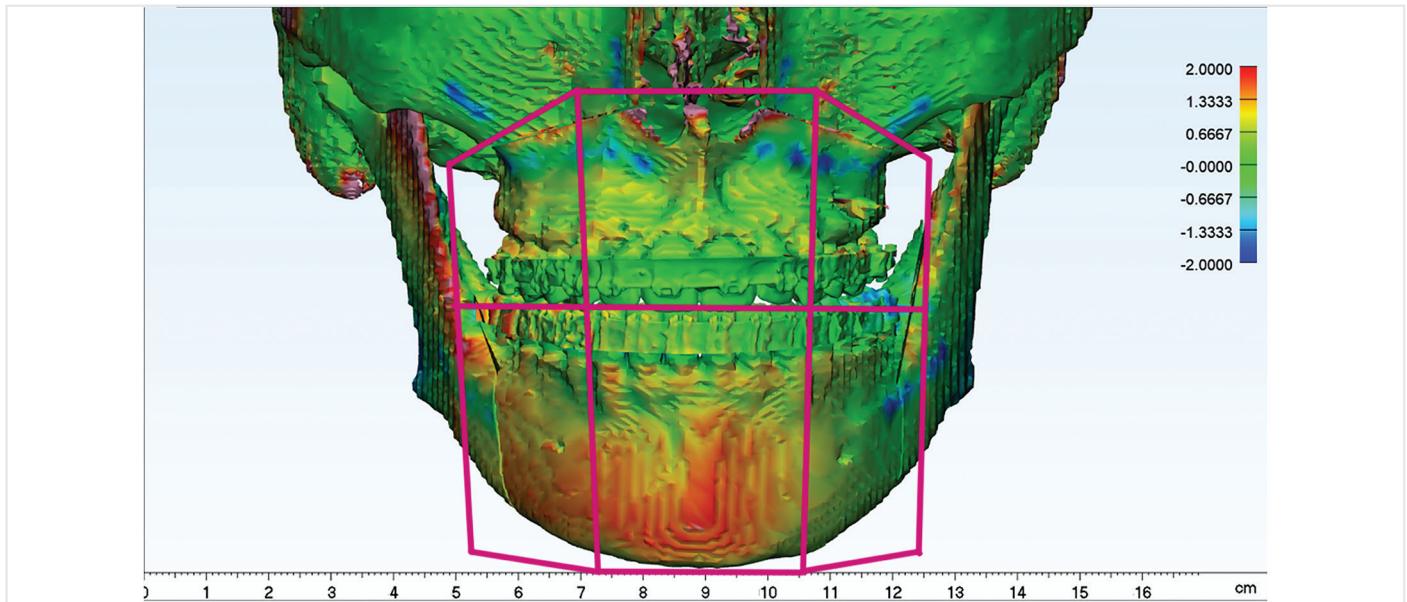


Figure 2. Color-coded 3D deviation maps generated using the “create part comparison analysis” function in 3-matic software to visualize surface discrepancies between the aligned preoperative and postoperative models. A ± 2 mm threshold was applied to define the range of deviations for color mapping. The maxillomandibular complex was divided into six regions: (1) chin, right (2a) or left (2b) posterior mandible, (3) anterior maxilla, and right (4a) or left (4b) posterior maxilla

3D: Three-dimensional

Statistical Analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics software (IBM Corporation, New York, USA, v.26). Descriptive statistics were calculated, including means, minimum and maximum values, medians, standard deviations (SD), and variances. The distance differences between the 15 cephalometric points identified on both the preoperative virtual planning and postoperative surgical outcome models were statistically compared using a one-sample t-test. The analysis was based on a 2 mm deviation threshold, which is considered clinically acceptable according to the literature (5). This test determined the regions where deviations were statistically significant. The normality of the data was assessed using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Independent samples t-tests and Wilcoxon signed-rank tests were conducted to compare differences in sex, skeletal malocclusion type, and surgical sequencing. Additionally, the relationship between sex, skeletal malocclusion type, surgical sequencing (maxilla-first or mandible-first), and the presence of deviations was analyzed using crosstabulations. All tests were two-sided, and a p-value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Forty-two patients were included in the study (26 females, 16 males), with a mean age of 23.07 ± 3.40 years (mean $\pm$ SD). Among them, nine patients had Class II skeletal malocclusion, while 33 had Class III skeletal malocclusion. Surgeries were performed using a maxilla-first approach in 24 patients and a mandible-first approach in 18 patients.

The total mean deviation was 2.19 ± 0.82 mm. In half of the patients, the mean total deviation was below 2 mm, whereas in the other half, it exceeded 2 mm. The total mean deviation was 1.55 ± 0.24 mm in patients without clinically significant deviation (≤ 2 mm), whereas it was 2.84 ± 0.66 mm in those with deviations greater than 2 mm. Descriptive statistics for deviations at each cephalometric point, as well as maxillary, mandibular, and total deviation values, along with deviations in the coronal, sagittal, and axial planes, are presented in Table 1.

According to the results of the one-sample t-test, deviations of the ANS and PNS points were statistically significantly higher than the test value of 2 mm ($p=0.030$ and 0.007 , respectively). Additionally, the maxillary mean deviation ($p=0.030$) was significantly higher than the test value. In contrast, total mean deviations in three directions (coronal, sagittal, and axial) ($p<0.001$), were significantly lower than the test value. However, maxillary, mandibular, and total deviation amounts, as well as mean deviations in three directions, showed no statistically significant differences between sex, skeletal malocclusion type, or maxilla/mandible-first categories ($p>0.05$). Cross tabulations examining the relationship between sex, skeletal malocclusion type, maxilla/mandible-first categories, and the presence of deviation are presented in Table 2. No statistically significant relationship was found between any of these variables and the presence of deviation ($p>0.05$).

Evaluation of the 3D color-coded deviation maps revealed that the most prominent discrepancies were observed in the anterior maxilla in 17 patients, in the chin region in 12 patients, posterior mandible in 11 patients, and the posterior maxilla in 2 patients.

Table 1. Summary of descriptive measures and statistical test results

	Mean	SD	Median	Min	Max	Range	Variance	p-value*
Age (year)	23.07	3.4	23	18	33	15	11.53	-
Maxillary advancement (mm)	4.76	1.74	5	2	8	6	3.02	-
A (mm)	2.1	1.29	2.12	0.17	5.71	5.54	1.68	0.634
B (mm)	2.07	1.48	2.08	0.24	7.45	7.21	2.18	0.744
ANS (mm)	2.6	1.75	2.37	0.09	6.47	6.38	3.05	0.030
PNS (mm)	2.92	2.09	2.65	0.01	10.68	10.67	4.37	0.007
Pogonion (mm)	2.45	2.05	1.95	0.06	10.62	10.56	4.21	0.164
Right upper canine (mm)	2.23	1.24	1.96	0.27	5.91	5.64	1.53	0.239
Right upper first molar (mm)	2.23	1.56	1.82	0.15	6.74	6.59	2.42	0.336
Left upper canine (mm)	2.15	1.62	1.59	0.03	6.9	6.87	2.63	0.565
Left upper first molar (mm)	2.11	1.43	1.87	0.22	5.77	5.55	2.04	0.630
Upper midline (mm)	2.14	1.88	1.42	0.05	7.54	7.49	3.52	0.625
Right lower canine (mm)	2.08	1.24	1.72	0.56	5.1	4.54	1.53	0.671
Right lower first molar (mm)	1.97	1.22	1.81	0.06	5.98	5.92	1.49	0.860
Left lower canine (mm)	1.82	1.23	1.49	0.25	5.12	4.87	1.51	0.565
Left lower first molar (mm)	2.17	1.05	2.11	0.25	4.18	3.93	1.1	0.292
Lower midline (mm)	1.87	1.39	1.43	0.01	5.89	5.88	1.93	0.539
Axial mean deviation (mm)	1.07	0.57	0.94	0.21	2.94	2.73	0.32	<0.001
Coronal mean deviation (mm)	1.64	0.6	1.42	0.73	3.05	2.32	0.36	<0.001
Sagittal mean deviation (mm)	0.07	0.08	0.05	0	0.41	0.4	0.01	<0.001
Maxillary mean deviation (mm)	2.31	0.89	2.14	0.99	4.47	3.48	0.8	0.030
Mandibular mean deviation (mm)	2.06	0.9	2.16	0.66	4.28	3.62	0.82	0.659
Total mean deviation (mm)	2.19	0.82	2.02	1.23	4.38	3.15	0.67	0.131

*: One-sample t-test, SD: Standard deviation, ANS: Anterior nasal spine, PNS: Posterior nasal spine

Table 2. Chi-square analysis of deviation presence by sex, skeletal malocclusion type, and surgical sequence

		Patients with deviation <2 mm (n)	Patients with deviation ≥2 mm (n)	p-value*
Sex	Female	14	12	0.376
	Male	7	9	
Skeletal malocclusion type	Class 2	5	4	0.500
	Class 3	16	17	
Surgical sequence	Mandible-first	6	12	0.059
	Maxilla-first	15	9	

*: Chi-square tests

There was no statistically significant relationship between the presence of preoperative mandibular asymmetry and the presence of postoperative deviation ($p=0.710$). Additionally, no significant difference was found between the amount of preoperative pogonion deviation from the midline and the presence of postoperative deviation ($p=0.300$). ICC values for repeated measurements exceeded 0.90 for all evaluated variables, supporting the robustness and reliability of the 3D analysis.

Discussion

Virtual planning techniques and 3D-printed surgical splints are now widely adopted in orthognathic procedures (10-12).

VSP enables comprehensive visualization of the dental arches in relation to surrounding skeletal structures within a single 3D model. Compared to traditional planning methods, this digital approach offers multiple advantages. It allows for detailed diagnostic analysis within a 3D environment and enables surgeons to simulate various surgical scenarios to determine the most optimal outcome. It also supports assessing and correcting centric relation in the temporomandibular joint and is a practical educational resource. In computer-assisted surgical simulation systems, the finalized virtual plan can be accurately translated to the clinical setting through surgical splints, which are produced using computer-aided design and computer-aided

manufacturing technologies directly from the digital model (13). Presurgical plans do not always match the actual surgical results. Although surgical notes can be helpful, surgeons may differ in estimating the amount of movement. Additionally, these notes often lack the precision needed to evaluate the accuracy of virtual surgery properly. Postoperative models provide the most reliable way to measure the actual surgical changes. The present study aims to assess the long-term accuracy of VSP by comparing 3D models representing the preoperative virtual plans and actual postoperative jaw positions, and to identify specific anatomical regions where deviations commonly occur between planned and exact outcomes.

In this study, the total mean deviation was 2.19 ± 0.82 mm. Although this value is slightly above the commonly accepted clinical threshold of 2 mm, the difference was not statistically significant. This may indicate that the minor postoperative changes resulting from factors such as soft tissue adaptation or bone remodeling are clinically negligible and may not significantly affect surgical outcomes. Neither preoperative mandibular asymmetry nor the degree of pogonion deviation from the midline showed a statistically significant association with postoperative discrepancies. This suggests that while preoperative asymmetry is an important clinical consideration, it may not be a reliable predictor of surgical inaccuracy when modern virtual planning and execution protocols are used.

A notable portion of the maxillary discrepancy may be attributed to deviations at the ANS and PNS points, both of which were statistically significant. These landmarks are particularly susceptible to intraoperative manipulation, such as dissection or trimming with burs, and may also undergo greater postoperative remodeling. Additionally, the maxillary mean deviation ($p=0.030$), along with mean deviations in three directions (coronal, sagittal, and axial) ($p<0.001$), were significantly higher than the test value. It is possible that intraoperative factors—such as splint seating, fixation technique, or maxillary positioning errors—play a more prominent role in the development of anterior maxillary deviation, as also supported by the overrepresentation of ANS deviation. These findings highlight the importance of carefully evaluating maxillary positioning during surgery, particularly in the anterior region, and suggest that even minor technical imprecisions can result in clinically perceptible deviations.

There appears to be a clear gap in the literature concerning the use of well-validated assessment methods. Notably, a lack of consensus is observed across studies regarding the criteria and approaches used for evaluation and validation. Han et al. (14) and Baan et al. (1) applied voxel-based registration using the cranial region as the reference, which contributed positively to the accuracy of their outcomes. Hsu et al. (5) and Hernández-Alfaro and Guijarro-Martínez (15) proposed a reliable superimposition technique using surface best-fit registration, while Zinser et al. (16) utilized point-based registration, a method more susceptible to human-induced error. The authors adopted the surface-based registration technique in this study to align the preoperative and postoperative models.

Xia et al. (17) utilized a hybrid approach combining surface best-fit alignment with reference point-based assessment. The reference point discrepancies were quantified as both linear and angular deviations across all three spatial dimensions. In a sample of five patients, the mean linear discrepancy was reported as 0.12 mm, with a SD of 0.19 mm (16,17). Hernández-Alfaro and Guijarro-Martínez captured the intraoperative dentition position within the intermediate splint using an intraoral scanner. These scanned surfaces were then compared to the preoperative virtual plans through Mathworks (Natick, MA) software, which generated color-coded deviation maps. The authors reported the mean and SD of the surface distance discrepancies (15). Multiple authors have suggested that a discrepancy of up to 2 mm between the virtual surgical plan and the actual postoperative outcome can be considered an acceptable threshold for surgical accuracy (5,10,13,17,18). Thus, the 2 mm success criterion should be considered the surgical goal. According to the results of this study, the ANS and PNS points were statistically significantly higher than the test value of 2 mm ($p=0.030$ and 0.007 , respectively). However, maxillary, mandibular, and total deviation amounts, and deviations in three directions, showed no statistically significant differences between sex, skeletal malocclusion type, or maxilla/mandible-first categories ($p>0.05$). ANS and PNS landmarks are particularly susceptible to intraoperative manipulation, such as dissection or trimming with burs, and may also undergo greater postoperative remodeling. Minor bony reductions performed either for the dissection of nasal muscles from the ANS or to preserve the nasal tip may account for the observed changes at the ANS point. Regarding the PNS, bone reduction extending from the ANS to the PNS is often performed to allow proper repositioning of the nasal septum along the midline without deviation. Changes in muscle orientation and traction forces due to superior or inferior repositioning of the maxilla are also believed to play a role in this remodeling process. Although these alterations are not clinically significant, they are potential explanations for the observed changes.

Perez and Ellis (19) argue that errors inadvertently created by performing mandibular surgery last would potentially be eliminated and not translated to the occlusion if the maxilla were positioned last instead. For instance, a 1 mm malposition of the mandible performed after maxillary surgery would create a malocclusion; however, the same malposition performed first would not. The maxilla would instead be malpositioned this slight amount to accommodate the appropriate occlusion. Slight malpositions (i.e., 1 mm or less), even in the incisor area, are not usually clinical problems. However, a 1-mm malocclusion could be a problem. However, Bozok et al. (20) reported that the absolute mean difference of the B point and the pogonion in the maxilla-first group was statistically significantly higher than in the mandible-first group. Several studies have focused on evaluating the accuracy of maxillary positioning following orthognathic surgery. However, limited attention has been given to the predictability of VSP in cases where mandibular surgery is performed first. This has led to ongoing discussions about whether the surgical sequence influences the accuracy of VSP, and whether additional measures—such as more rigid fixation—may

be necessary when a mandible-first approach is used. Our study found no statistically significant difference between patients who underwent mandible-first and maxilla-first approaches.

Study Limitations

One of the key limitations of this study is the relatively small sample size ($n=42$), which may reduce the ability to detect subtle but potentially meaningful differences, particularly in subgroup analyses. Additionally, using ANS and PNS as maxillary landmarks may have overestimated surgical discrepancies, as these points are prone to intraoperative reduction and postoperative remodelling. Excluding them led to a notable decrease in measured maxillary deviation, underscoring the importance of landmark selection in accuracy assessment. Furthermore, since cutting guides were not used, deviations may also have resulted from differences between the osteotomy lines defined during virtual planning and those performed intraoperatively by the surgeon. Larger-scale studies are needed to draw more definitive conclusion.

Conclusion

Taken together, the findings suggest that while VSP ensures a high degree of accuracy overall, specific anatomical landmarks—such as the ANS and PNS—remain susceptible to deviation. Moreover, clinically meaningful discrepancies may arise independently of traditionally assumed predictors such as skeletal classification or surgical sequencing. These results highlight the need for further research with larger, statistically powered sample sizes.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: This retrospective study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Bezmialem Vakıf University (decision no: 2023/202; date: 14.07.2023).

Informed Consent: Informed consent was waived due to the retrospective design.

Footnotes

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: T.P., E.F.A., T.K., Concept: T.P., E.F.A., T.K., Design: T.P., E.F.A., T.K., Data Collection or Processing: T.P., E.F.A., T.K., E.S.Y., Analysis or Interpretation: T.P., E.F.A., E.S.Y., Literature Search: T.P., E.F.A., E.S.Y., Writing: T.P., E.F.A.

Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

Financial Disclosure: The authors declared that this study received no financial support.

References

1. Baan F, Liebrechts J, Xi T, Schreurs R, de Koning M, Bergé S, et al. A new 3D tool for assessing the accuracy of bimaxillary surgery: the OrthoGnathicAnalyser. *PLoS One*. 2016;11:e0149625.
2. Otranto de Britto Teixeira A, Almeida MAO, Almeida RCDC, Maués CP, Pimentel T, Ribeiro DPB, et al. Three-dimensional accuracy of virtual planning in orthognathic surgery. *Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop*. 2020;158:674-83.
3. Tonin RH, Iwaki Filho L, Yamashita AL, Ferraz FWDS, Tolentino ES, Previdelli ITDS, et al. Accuracy of 3D virtual surgical planning for maxillary positioning and orientation in orthognathic surgery. *Orthod Craniofac Res*. 2020;23:229-36.
4. Zhang N, Liu S, Hu Z, Hu J, Zhu S, Li Y. Accuracy of virtual surgical planning in two-jaw orthognathic surgery: comparison of planned and actual results. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol*. 2016;122:143-51.
5. Hsu SS, Gateno J, Bell RB, Hirsch DL, Markiewicz MR, Teichgraber JF, et al. Accuracy of a computer-aided surgical simulation protocol for orthognathic surgery: a prospective multicenter study. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2013;71:128-42.
6. Mazzoni S, Bianchi A, Schiariti G, Badiali G, Marchetti C. Computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing cutting guides and customized titanium plates are useful in upper maxilla waferless repositioning. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2015;73:701-7.
7. Tucker S, Cevidanes LH, Styner M, Kim H, Reyes M, Proffit W, et al. Comparison of actual surgical outcomes and 3-dimensional surgical simulations. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2010;68:2412-21.
8. Xia JJ, Gateno J, Teichgraber JF, Christensen AM, Lasky RE, Lemoine JJ, et al. Accuracy of the computer-aided surgical simulation (CASS) system in the treatment of patients with complex craniomaxillofacial deformity: a pilot study. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2007;65:248-54.
9. Zavattero E, Romano M, Gerbino G, Rossi DS, Gianni AB, Ramieri G, et al. Evaluation of the accuracy of virtual planning in orthognathic surgery: a morphometric study. *J Craniofac Surg*. 2019;30:1214-20.
10. Stokbro K, Aagaard E, Torkov P, Bell RB, Thygesen T. Surgical accuracy of three-dimensional virtual planning: a pilot study of bimaxillary orthognathic procedures including maxillary segmentation. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2016;45:8-18.
11. Adolphs N, Liu W, Keeve E, Hoffmeister B. RapidSplint: virtual splint generation for orthognathic surgery - results of a pilot series. *Comput Aided Surg*. 2014;19:20-8.
12. Uribe F, Janakiraman N, Shafer D, Nanda R. Three-dimensional cone-beam computed tomography-based virtual treatment planning and fabrication of a surgical splint for asymmetric patients: surgery first approach. *Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop*. 2013;144:748-58.
13. Stokbro K, Aagaard E, Torkov P, Bell RB, Thygesen T. Virtual planning in orthognathic surgery. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2014;43:957-65.
14. Han MD, Graca S, Miloro M. What is the angular accuracy of regional voxel-based registration for segmental Le Fort I and genioplasty osteotomies? *Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2024;53:571-7.
15. Hernández-Alfaro F, Guijarro-Martínez R. New protocol for three-dimensional surgical planning and CAD/CAM splint generation in orthognathic surgery: an in vitro and in vivo study. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg*. 2013;42:1547-56.
16. Zinser MJ, Mischkowski RA, Sailer HF, Zöller JE. Computer-assisted orthognathic surgery: feasibility study using multiple CAD/CAM surgical splints. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol*. 2012;113:673-87.

17. Xia J, Samman N, Yeung RW, Wang D, Shen SG, Ip HH, et al. Computer-assisted three-dimensional surgical planing and simulation. 3D soft tissue planning and prediction. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg.* 2000;29:250-8.
18. Shehab MF, Barakat AA, Abdelghany K, Mostafa Y, Baur DA. A novel design of a computer-generated splint for vertical repositioning of the maxilla after Le Fort I osteotomy. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol.* 2013;115:e16-25.
19. Perez D, Ellis E 3rd. Sequencing bimaxillary surgery: mandible first. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg.* 2011;69:2217-24.
20. Bozok E, Ozel A, Akkoyun EF, Dolanmaz E. Mandible-first and maxilla-first sequencing in virtual surgical planning for orthognathic surgery: comparison of planned and actual outcomes. *Ear Nose Throat J.* 2024;103:106S-18S.