

# Modified Björk Analysis of Lateral Head Radiographs of Southern Chinese

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**Abstract:** *Aim:* To establish cephalometric norms for the modified Björk's cephalometric analysis in southern Chinese children, and compare them to those of a matched Caucasian sample.

*Materials and Methods:* The material comprised lateral cephalometric radiographs of a random sample of 200 males and 205 females 12-year-old southern Chinese, and an additional sample of 43 males and 43 females 12-year-old British Caucasian children in Hong Kong. The radiographs were digitized twice with the Computer-Assisted Simulation System for Orthognathic Surgery (CASSOS) program.

*Results:* The results showed that there were statistically significant ethnic differences for 15 out of the 17 cephalometric variables ( $P < 0.05-0.001$ ). There were statistically significant ethnic differences for 11 variables in males ( $P < 0.05-0.001$ ) and 15 variables in females ( $P < 0.05-0.001$ ). The size of the statistically significant gender differences varied from -0.4 to 0.8 ( $P < 0.05-0.001$ ) in SD scores for Chinese and from 0.5 to 0.6 ( $P < 0.01$ ) for Caucasian. The size of the observed statistically significant ethnic differences varied from -1.7 to 1.3 ( $P < 0.05-0.001$ ) in SD scores for female and from -1.6 to 1.0 ( $P < 0.05-0.001$ ) for male.

*Conclusion:* Cephalometric norms for the modified Björk's cephalometric analysis in southern Chinese children were established. The use of specific standards for Chinese and separate for gender, for the modified Björk' cephalometric analysis seems to be justified.

**Key Words:** Cephalometrics, diagnosis, population norms, ethnic, gender.

## INTRODUCTION

'Since its introduction in 1931 by Broadbent and Hofrath in the United States and Germany, respectively, radiographic cephalometry has become one of the most important tools of clinical and research orthodontics' [1]. Lateral cephalometry radiograph is used for the orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning, evaluation of treatment progress, treatment changes, growth study and research. A list of the most well-known and popular cephalometric analyses included no fewer than 23 analyses introduced between 1946 and 1985 were presented in a contemporary comprehensive textbook on cephalometry [2]. 'Björk analysis' [3] is one of the most commonly used cephalometric method with some modifications. The vast majority of the 23 analyses used reference values obtained from selected, often small, samples of Caucasians, and some of these methods [4,5] made no distinction for age and gender. One method [6] included reference values based a small sample, separate for gender, over a 15-year age range, whereas for a few methods [3,7] the references were based on larger samples separate for gender and age groups.

For the appropriate application of any cephalometric analysis, it must be used with norms derived from popula-

tions similar to the orthodontic patients with regard to ethnic group, gender and age [1]. Since orthodontic patients nowadays range from juveniles to senior citizens and come from various ethnic groups, a wide range of representative norms would be ideal. Nevertheless, patients most commonly undergo orthodontic treatment at around 10-14 years of age, and priority should be given to obtaining solid norms for this age group. Previously cephalometric norms in southern Chinese have been published [8] for a method described by Solow and Tallgren [9], McNamara Analysis [10] and Pancherz' sagittal (SO) and vertical (VO) occlusal analyses [11]. However Cooke and Wei [8] only used 60 per cent of the available Chinese sample and the ethnic comparison was limited to males only [12]. In a recent addition to this series of cephalometric norms of southern Chinese the reference values interpolation of the increments obtained from another population study estimates of annual increments were made in order to get reference values, not only for 12-year old but for the age range of 10-14 years [10], when many children undergo orthodontic treatment. Therefore the aim of this study to establish cephalometric norms of modified Björk analysis for southern Chinese children.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two hundred male and 207 female 12-year-old southern Chinese school children were selected by a partially stratified random sampling method from ten schools in Hong Kong [8]. Two females with previous and current orthodon-

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tic treatment were excluded, and the final sample consisted of 200 males and 205 females (Table 1). In addition a sample was drawn from two expatriate schools which agreed to participate in the study, consisting of 47 male and 43 female 12-year old Caucasian school children living in Hong Kong whose parents originated from the United Kingdom. This sample was used for ethnic comparison. Four male Caucasians were excluded from the initial sample due to previous or current orthodontic treatment, and the final sample consisted of 43 males and 43 females.

## RADIOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE

All the lateral cephalometric radiographs were taken in natural head posture as originally defined by Molhave [13] and later adopted and modified by others [14,15]. The x-ray machine was General Electric GE1000 (Milwaukee, WI) using for both Chinese and Caucasian samples. Magnification was 8.8 percent for the mid-sagittal structure, ear-rods were used, and the subjects looked into a mirror 200 cm ahead after first tilting the head forward and backward with decreasing amplitude until a comfortable position of natural balance was found [15]. The lips were in light contact. Intensifying screens were used to minimize the exposure level. Free comprehensive dental treatment including orthodontic treatment was offered to all subjects, and copies of the original radiographs were later used for diagnosis.

## CEPHALOMETRIC METHOD

The landmarks and reference lines for modified Björk analysis [3] are summarized in Table 2. Initially, the radiographs were traced manually and then rechecked by digitization and application of the program CASSOS (CASSOS 2001, Soft Enable Technology Limited, Hong Kong, PRC). There was no statistically-significant difference between the method error of the tracing by manual and digitizer. All radiographs were traced and digitized twice, taking the average of each of the investigated cephalometric variables in order to reduce the error in landmark identification [16]. Besides the actual population reference values for 12-year old children, additional 'reference values' for the ages 10, 11, 13

and 14 year-old children, were extrapolated from increments obtained from the analysis of template obtained from Scandinavian standards [17,18].

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

T-test for independent samples was used, and the levels of statistical significance were  $P<.05$ ,  $P<.01$  and  $P<.001$ . The gender differences and the ethnic differences were also presented in standard deviation-score [19]; i.e. for a certain variable A:

1) SD Score of gender difference of variable A:

$$= \frac{\text{Mean of gender difference}}{(\text{SD of A for males} + \text{SD of A for females})/2}$$

2) SD Score of ethnic difference of variable A:

$$= \frac{\text{Mean of ethnic difference A}}{(\text{SD of A for Chinese males} + \text{SD of A for Caucasian males})/2}$$

## METHOD ERROR

Method errors were calculated by Dahlberg's formula [20],  $M.E = \sqrt{\frac{\sum d^2}{2n}}$ . Where  $\sum d^2$  is the sum of the squared differences between the two sets of two mean values, and n is the number of double measurements.

## RESULTS

All radiographs were traced and digitized twice, taking the average of each of the investigated cephalometric variables in order to reduce the error in landmark identification [16]. The method errors for linear and angular measurement were not statistically significant, and did not exceed 0.5mm and 0.7° respectively for any variables. There was no statistically-significant difference between the age groups of the samples (Table 1). The cephalometric norms of modified

**Table 1. Demographic Data on the Chinese and Caucasian Samples**

	n	Age			Range	
		Mean	SD	Median	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Chinese</b>						
Male	200	12.4	0.60	12.5	11.0	13.0
Female	205	12.5	0.38	12.6	11.9	13.0
Difference <sup>a)</sup>		-0.1		-0.1	-0.9	0.0
<b>Caucasian</b>						
Male	43	12.4	0.20	12.4	12.1	12.7
Female	43	12.5	0.32	12.3	12.1	13.0
Difference <sup>a)</sup>		-0.1		0.1	0.0	-0.3

<sup>a)</sup> Sex difference was not statistically significant.

**Table 2. Landmarks and Definitions**

Variable	Variable	Definitions
<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	
S	Sella	The center of sella turcica
N	Nasion	The most anterior limit of suture nasofrontalis
Ba	Basion	The posterior interior point on the occipital bone at the anterior margin of the foramen magnum
ANS	Anterior Nasal Spine	The apex of the anterior nasal spine
PNS	Posterior Nasal Spine	The apex of the posterior nasal spine
A	Subspinale	The most posterior point on the concave anterior border of the maxillary alveolar process
B	Supramentale	Innermost point on the anterior contour of the mandible
Pg	Pogonion	The most anterior point on the mandibular symphysis
Me	Menton	The most inferior point on the mandibular symphysis
Go	Gonion	The lowest posterior and most outward point of the angle of the mandible
<b>Angles</b>		
NSBa		The angle formed by the anterior (NS) and posterior skull base (SBa)
SNA		The angle formed by the SN and NA lines
SNB		The angle formed by the SN and NB lines
ANB		The angle formed by the AN and NB lines
SNPg		The angle formed by the SN and NPg lines
SN/MnPl		The angle formed by the SN line and the mandibular plane
SN/MxPl		The angle formed by the SN line and the maxillary plane
Mx/MnPl		The angle formed by the maxillary and mandibular planes
U1/MxPl		The angle formed by the upper incisor and the maxillary plane
L1/MnPl		The angle formed by the lower incisor and the mandibular plane
Interincisal		The angle formed by the upper incisor and the lower incisor
<b>Distances</b>		
Lower I to A-Pg		The distance From the tip of the lower incisor to the A-Pg line
A,B on OP		The distance between the projections from A and B points to the functional occlusal plane
UFH		Upper facial height: the distance from Nasion to MxPl
LFH		Lower facial height: the distance from MxPl to Menton
Upper Lip to E		The distance from the upper lip to the esthetic line
Lower lip to E		The distance from the lower lip to the esthetic line

Björk analysis [3] for 12-year old southern Chinese and 12-year old British Caucasian are summarized in Table 3 and Table 4, respectively. The inter-ethnic differences for males and females are summarized in Table 5. There was a large individual variation for all variables for both ethnic groups and both genders.

#### **GENDER DIFFERENCES (TABLES 3 AND 4)**

There was no statistically-significant gender difference among the Chinese subjects for the variables of skull base

angle, SNA, SN to maxillary plane angle, upper incisor to maxillary angle, lower incisor to mandibular plane angle, interincisal angle and lower incisor to A-Pg. Eight variables among the Chinese subjects were significantly larger in males: ANB (0.9°; 0.4 SD score  $P<0.001$ ), SN to mandibular plane angle (1.7°; 0.3 SD score,  $P<0.01$ ), maxillary plane to mandibular plane angle (1.6°; 0.3 SD score,  $P<0.01$ ), Wits appraisal (0.7mm; 0.3 SD score,  $P<0.01$ ), upper facial height (1.3mm; 0.4 SD score,  $P<0.01$ ), lower facial height (1.2mm; 0.3 SD score,  $P<0.01$ ), upper lip to esthetic line (1.7mm; 0.8 SD score,  $P<0.001$ ), and lower lip to esthetic line (1.7mm;

**Table 3. Cephalometric Norms of Modified Björk's Analysis for 12-Year Old Chinese Children**

Variables	Males (n = 200)								Females (n = 205)								Sex Difference	SD-Scores
	Mean	SD	Median	Range		95% Confidence Interval of the Mean		Mean	SD	Median	Range		95% Confidence Interval of the Mean					
				Min	Max	Lower	Upper				Min	Max	Lower	Upper				
Angular Measurements																		
NSBa	128.5	5.14	128.5	113.5	148.4	127.8	129.2	128.8	4.58	129.1	116.9	142.5	128.2	129.5	-0.3	-0.1		
SNA	81.8	3.65	81.9	72.3	92.5	81.3	82.3	82.0	3.50	82.1	72.6	91.1	81.5	82.4	-0.2	-0.1		
SNB	78.6	3.73	78.5	70.1	90.7	78.1	79.1	79.6	3.23	79.6	70.8	87.4	79.2	80.1	-1.0*	-0.3		
ANB	3.2	2.20	3.4	-2.0	9.7	2.9	3.5	2.4	2.05	2.4	-3.6	9.2	2.1	2.6	0.9**	0.4		
SNPg	78.7	3.79	78.7	70.7	90.9	78.2	79.2	80.0	3.27	79.8	72.0	88.3	79.5	80.4	-1.3**	-0.4		
SN/MnPl	35.3	5.57	35.6	18.5	47.2	34.6	36.1	33.6	5.17	34.0	20.5	48.7	32.9	34.3	1.7*	0.3		
SN/MxPl	9.1	3.35	9.4	0.3	19.7	8.6	9.6	9.0	3.35	9.4	0.2	17.2	8.5	9.5	0.1	0.0		
MxPl/MnPl	26.2	5.08	26.5	12.8	40.3	25.5	26.9	24.7	4.62	24.7	11.2	35.8	24.0	25.3	1.6*	0.3		
U1/MxPl	116.6	5.90	116.9	102.1	133.4	115.8	117.5	117.4	6.77	117.7	95.1	136.4	116.5	118.3	-0.8	-0.1		
L1/MnPl	96.5	6.46	96.0	76.2	113.4	95.6	97.3	96.8	6.84	96.2	82.1	116.1	95.8	97.7	-0.3	0.0		
Interincisal	120.7	9.37	120.3	94.0	150.5	119.4	122.0	121.2	10.15	121.9	93.5	148.9	119.8	122.6	-0.5	-0.1		
Linear Measurements																		
Lower I to A-Pg	5.4	2.43	5.5	-1.8	12.0	5.0	5.7	5.3	2.25	5.2	-1.1	11.6	5.0	5.6	0.1	0.0		
A,B on OP	-3.9	2.83	-3.7	-12.1	3.8	-4.3	-3.5	-4.6	2.50		-10.8	1.9	-5.0	-4.3	0.7*	0.3		
UFH	54.7	3.02	54.8	47.7	61.5	54.3	55.1	53.5	3.00	53.7	44.9	60.0	53.0	53.9	1.3*	0.4		
LFH	64.4	4.36	64.4	55.3	76.1	63.7	65.0	63.1	4.11	63.2	52.5	73.1	62.6	63.7	1.2*	0.3		
Upper Lip to E	2.8	2.14	2.9	-4.3	8.6	2.5	3.1	1.1	2.17	1.1	-5.0	8.0	0.8	1.4	1.7**	0.8		
Lower Lip to E	3.3	2.51	3.4	-3.8	9.6	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.23	1.6	-6.2	10.0	1.3	1.9	1.7**	0.7		

\*: p&lt;0.01; \*\*: p&lt;0.001.

0.7 SD score, P<0.001). Two variables were significantly larger in females: SNB (-1.0°; -0.3 SD score, P<0.01), SN to pogonion angle (-1.3°; -0.4 SD score, P<0.001).

Among the Caucasian subjects, statistically-significant gender differences were noted for three parameters: lower face height (2.2mm; 0.5 SD score, P<0.01), upper lip to esthetic line (1.2mm; 0.6 SD score, P<0.01), and lower lip to esthetic line (1.4mm; 0.6 SD score, P<0.01). They were larger in males than in females (Table 4).

#### ETHNIC DIFFERENCES (TABLE 5)

Among the male subjects statistically-significant differences were noted for six variables related to the angular measurements, and five variables related to the linear variables. Nine of the variables were larger in the Chinese sub-

jects, five angular measurements, SNA (1.5°; 0.3 SD score, P<0.01), SNB (0.8°; 0.2 SD score, P<0.05), SN to mandibular plane angle (3.7°; 0.8 SD score, P<0.001), SN to maxillary plane angle (2.7°; 0.6 SD score, P<0.001), upper incisor to maxillary plane angle (4.8°; 1.0 SD score, P<0.001), and four linear measurements, lower incisor to A-Pg line (3.2 mm; 0.7 SD score, P<0.001), upper facial height (3.0 mm; 0.6 SD score, P<0.001), upper lip to esthetic line (4.1mm; 0.8 SD score, P<0.001) and lower lip to esthetic line (4.1 mm; 0.9 SD score, P<0.001), whereas two variables were larger in the Caucasian subjects, i.e. interincisal angle (-7.7°; -1.6 SD score, P<0.001), and Wits appraisal (-1.0 mm; -0.2 SD score, P<0.05).

In females, nine out of eleven variables related to the angular measurements and all six variables related to linear measurements, differed significantly. Eleven variables were

**Table 4. Cephalometric Norms of Modified Björk's Analysis for 12-Year Old Caucasian Children**

Variables	Males (n = 43)							Females (n = 43)							Sex Difference	SD- Scores
	Mean	SD	Median	Range		95% Confidence Interval of the Mean		Mean	SD	Median	Range		95% Confidence Interval of the Mean			
				Min	Max	Lower	Upper				Min	Max	Lower	Upper		
Angular Measurements																
NSBa	129.2	4.49	129.3	118.6	140.0	128.6	129.8	131.0	4.55	130.3	121.8	142.9	130.3	131.6	-1.8	-0.4
SNA	80.3	2.72	80.7	73.5	87.0	79.9	80.6	80.9	3.49	80.9	72.1	89.8	80.4	81.3	-0.6	-0.2
SNB	77.7	2.56	77.4	72.8	83.6	77.4	78.1	77.6	3.16	78.1	69.0	84.3	77.2	78.0	0.1	0.0
ANB	2.5	1.93	2.5	-1.4	6.6	2.3	2.8	3.3	2.12	3.5	-1.8	7.1	3.0	3.6	-0.8	-0.4
SNPg	78.9	2.76	78.8	73.3	87.0	78.5	79.3	78.7	3.04	79.3	70.3	84.7	78.3	79.1	0.2	0.1
SN/MnPl	31.6	4.12	31.8	22.1	43.1	31.1	32.2	31.3	5.16	30.1	21.6	43.3	30.5	32.0	0.4	0.1
SN/MxPl	6.4	3.08	7.0	0.7	13.9	6.0	6.8	7.6	2.71	7.6	1.8	14.0	7.3	8.0	-1.2	-0.4
MxPl/MnPl	25.3	4.36	25.1	13.0	35.7	24.7	25.9	23.6	5.64	23.8	7.6	36.0	22.9	24.4	1.6	0.3
U1/MxPl	111.8	6.02	111.5	97.1	125.3	111.0	112.7	111.5	5.84	111.7	96.2	130.2	110.7	112.3	0.3	0.1
L1/MnPl	94.5	5.73	94.3	84.4	107.5	93.7	95.3	95.8	7.05	94.6	79.7	109.9	94.8	96.7	-1.3	-0.2
Interincisal	128.4	8.76	127.9	113.0	144.2	127.2	129.6	129.1	10.03	130.9	105.3	154.1	127.7	130.5	-0.7	-0.1
Linear Measurements																
Lower I to A-Pg	2.1	2.28	2.1	-1.5	8.4	1.8	2.5	1.5	2.36	1.5	-4.4	6.5	1.2	1.9	0.6	0.3
A,B on OP	-2.9	2.80	-3.3	-8.3	3.9	-3.3	-2.5	-2.2	2.89	-2.0	-7.5	6.9	-2.6	-1.8	-0.7	-0.3
UFH	51.8	3.64	51.6	45.9	62.0	51.3	52.3	51.7	2.49	51.6	47.4	58.9	51.4	52.1	0.0	0.0
LFH	63.0	4.38	62.4	54.5	71.8	62.4	63.6	60.8	4.13	60.3	52.2	71.7	60.2	61.4	2.2*	0.5
Upper Lip to E	-1.3	1.75	-1.2	-5.0	2.4	-1.5	-1.0	-2.5	2.54	-2.9	-7.2	2.7	-2.8	-2.1	1.2*	0.6
Lower Lip to E	-0.8	2.21	-0.5	-5.3	3.0	-1.1	-0.5	-2.2	2.77	-2.5	-7.2	4.9	-2.6	-1.9	1.4*	0.6

\*: p&lt;0.01.

statistically-significantly larger in Chinese females, SNA (1.1°; 0.2 SD score, P<0.05), SNB (2.0°; 0.4 SD score, P<0.001), SN to pogonion angle (1.3°; 0.3 SD score, P<0.01), SN to mandibular plane angle (2.4°; 0.5 SD score, P<0.01), SN to maxillary plane angle (1.4°; 0.3 SD score, P<0.05), upper incisor to maxillary plane angle (6.0°; 1.3 SD score, P<0.001), lower incisor to A-Pg line (3.7 mm; 0.8 SD score, P<0.001), upper facial height (1.7mm; 0.4 SD score, P<0.01), lower facial height (2.3mm; 0.5 SD score, P<0.01), upper lip to esthetic line (3.5mm; 0.8 SD score, P<0.001), and lower lip to esthetic line (3.9 mm; 0.8 SD score, P<0.001). Four variables were larger in Caucasian females: skull base angle (-2.1°; -0.5 SD score, P<0.01), ANB (-0.9°; -0.2 SD score, P<0.01), interincisal angle (-7.9°; -1.7 SD score, P<0.001) and Wits appraisal (-2.5 mm; -0.5 SD score, P<0.001).

## REFERENCE VALUES FOR CERTAIN AGE GROUPS

The mean values for the cephalometric variables for 10 to 14 years, separate for sex and ethnic groups, respectively, are given in Table 6.

## DISCUSSION

This study established norms for modified Björk analysis [3] in southern Chinese, separate for gender. The study was based on a large sample of 12 year old children which was representative for its original population [8]. In the study the cephalograms were measured twice and the averaged figures were used. These repeated measurements reduced the error of landmark identification [16], and duplicate measurements were sufficient for a comparison of the two groups. Consequently the means and standard deviations of the seventeen

**Table 5. Cephalometric Norms of Modified Björk's Analysis for Inter-Ethnic Differences (Chinese vs Caucasians)**

Variables	Male	SD-Score	Female	SD-Score
<b>Angular Measurements</b>				
NSBa	-0.7	-0.1	-2.1 **	-0.5
SNA	1.5 **	0.3	1.1 *	0.2
SNB	0.8*	0.2	2.0 ***	0.4
ANB	0.7	0.3	-0.9 **	-0.2
SNPg	-0.2	0.1	1.3 **	0.3
SN/MnPl	3.7 ***	0.8	2.4 **	0.5
SN/MxPl	2.7 ***	0.6	1.4 *	0.3
MxPl/MnPl	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.2
U1/MxPl	4.8 ***	1.0	5.9 ***	1.3
L1/MnPl	1.9	0.3	1.0	0.2
Interincisal	-7.7 ***	-1.6	-7.9 ***	-1.7
<b>Linear Measurements</b>				
Lower I to A-Pg	3.2 ***	0.7	3.7 ***	0.8
A,B on OP	-1.0 *	-0.2	-2.5 ***	-0.5
UFH	3.0 ***	0.6	1.7 **	0.4
LFH	1.4	0.3	2.3 **	0.5
Upper Lip to E	4.1 ***	0.8	3.5 ***	0.8
Lower Lip to E	4.1 ***	0.9	3.9 ***	0.8

\*, p<0.05; \*\*, p<0.01; \*\*\*, p<0.001.

cephalometric variables investigated in this study should be considered as representative for 12-year-old southern Chinese. In a previous study [8] which was based a part (60 per cent) of the current sample of southern Chinese children, the cephalograms were analysed once only, seven out of 17 cephalometric variables were not included, and the ethnic comparison was limited to males only [12]. Subsequently, the reference data obtained in this study was based on larger, probably more representative sample of southern Chinese children, are of higher quality since the data was based on the average of two readings [16]. Moreover the analysis included a matched female Caucasian cohort, so the ethnic comparison could include both sexes, and the sex difference between Caucasian males and females could be investigated.

Besides a conventional statistical t-test of the differences between variables for the two genders and the two ethnic groups, SD scores were also used. The statistically-significant gender differences among the Chinese subjects and the ethnic differences between Chinese and Caucasians (Tables 3, 4 and 5) were also expressed in standard deviation scores [19]. In other words, the differences were expressed not only in degrees and millimeters, but also in relation to their variation around the mean of the actual parameter. To use SD scores to describe the extent to which a certain patient devi-

ated for specific cephalometric variables can also be used in clinical situations [10,11,19,21].

## ETHNIC DIFFERENCES

In the present study a direct ethnic comparison of both sexes was made between 12-year old Chinese and 12-year old Caucasian children (Table 5), whereas in the previous study on material obtained from the same cohorts, the ethnic gender comparison was limited to males only [12].

This study showed marked ethnic differences for eleven out of the seventeen variables of male and fifteen out of seventeen variables of female between the Chinese and Caucasian samples (Table 5). The statistically-significant ethnic differences expressed in SD Scores [19] ranged from -1.6 to 1.0 in males and -1.7 to 1.3 in females for modified Björk analysis in this study. This degree of difference would appear to justify separated cephalometric standards for Chinese and Caucasian children. Such ethnic differences were to be expected, since a similar ethnic pattern was noticed from comparison of those samples when adopting the cephalometric method devised by Solow and Tallgren [9] on this sample [12]. The pattern of ethnic differences in males of this study and the previous study, was identical except for the inclination of the lower incisor to the mandibular plane, with not statistically

**Table 6. Reference Values for Modified Björk's Analysis for 10-14 Year Old Chinese and Caucasian Females and Males**

Variables	Chinese										Caucasian									
	Males					Females					Males					Females				
	10 <sup>b)</sup>	11 <sup>b)</sup>	12 <sup>a)</sup>	13 <sup>b)</sup>	14 <sup>b)</sup>	10 <sup>b)</sup>	11 <sup>b)</sup>	12 <sup>a)</sup>	13 <sup>b)</sup>	14 <sup>b)</sup>	10 <sup>b)</sup>	11 <sup>b)</sup>	12 <sup>a)</sup>	13 <sup>b)</sup>	14 <sup>b)</sup>	10 <sup>b)</sup>	11 <sup>b)</sup>	12 <sup>a)</sup>	13 <sup>b)</sup>	14 <sup>b)</sup>
<b>Angular Measurements</b>																				
NSBA	129.6	129.0	<b>128.5</b>	128.0	127.7	129.4	129.1	<b>128.8</b>	128.6	128.8	130.3	129.7	<b>129.2</b>	128.7	128.4	131.5	131.3	<b>131.0</b>	130.7	131.0
SNA	81.3	81.5	<b>81.8</b>	82.0	82.1	81.2	81.6	<b>82.0</b>	82.4	82.3	79.8	80.1	<b>80.3</b>	80.5	80.6	80.1	80.5	<b>80.9</b>	81.3	81.3
SNB	77.8	78.2	<b>78.6</b>	78.9	79.2	78.2	78.9	<b>79.6</b>	80.3	80.7	77.0	77.3	<b>77.7</b>	78.1	78.3	76.2	76.9	<b>77.6</b>	78.3	78.7
ANB	3.5	3.3	<b>3.2</b>	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.7	<b>2.4</b>	2.1	1.7	2.8	2.6	<b>2.5</b>	2.4	2.2	3.9	3.6	<b>3.3</b>	3.0	2.6
SnPg	77.7	78.2	<b>78.7</b>	79.2	79.6	78.5	79.2	<b>80.0</b>	80.7	80.9	77.9	78.4	<b>78.9</b>	79.4	79.8	77.2	78.0	<b>78.7</b>	79.4	79.6
Sn_Mnp	36.3	35.8	<b>35.3</b>	34.8	34.3	35.0	34.3	<b>33.6</b>	33.0	32.6	32.6	32.1	<b>31.6</b>	31.1	30.6	32.6	32.0	<b>31.3</b>	30.6	30.3
Sn_MxP	9.4	9.3	<b>9.1</b>	8.9	8.9	9.5	9.3	<b>9.0</b>	8.7	8.5	6.7	6.6	<b>6.4</b>	6.2	6.2	8.1	7.9	<b>7.6</b>	7.3	7.1
MxP_MnP	26.9	26.6	<b>26.2</b>	25.9	25.4	25.5	25.1	<b>24.7</b>	24.3	24.1	26.0	25.6	<b>25.3</b>	25.0	24.5	24.4	24.0	<b>23.6</b>	23.2	23.1
U1_MxP	115.4	116.0	<b>116.6</b>	117.2	117.3	116.6	117.0	<b>117.4</b>	117.8	117.4	110.6	111.2	<b>111.8</b>	112.4	112.5	110.7	111.1	<b>111.5</b>	111.9	111.5
L1_MnP	95.9	96.2	<b>96.5</b>	96.7	96.9	97.1	96.9	<b>96.8</b>	96.6	96.2	94.0	94.2	<b>94.5</b>	94.8	94.9	96.1	96.0	<b>95.8</b>	95.6	95.3
Interincisal	121.7	121.2	<b>120.7</b>	120.1	120.4	120.9	121.0	<b>121.2</b>	121.4	122.2	129.5	128.9	<b>128.4</b>	127.9	128.1	128.8	128.9	<b>129.1</b>	129.3	130.1
<b>Linear Measurements</b>																				
L1 to A-Pg	5.3	5.3	<b>5.4</b>	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	<b>5.3</b>	5.3	5.3	2.0	2.1	<b>2.1</b>	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.5	<b>1.5</b>	1.5	1.5
Wits	-4.4	-4.1	<b>-3.9</b>	-3.7	-3.6	-3.8	-4.2	<b>-4.6</b>	-5.0	-5.2	-3.4	-3.1	<b>-2.9</b>	-2.7	-2.6	-1.4	-1.8	<b>-2.2</b>	-2.6	-2.8
UFH	52.4	53.6	<b>54.7</b>	55.9	57.2	52.6	53.0	<b>53.5</b>	53.9	54.2	49.5	50.6	<b>51.8</b>	53.0	54.3	50.8	51.3	<b>51.7</b>	52.1	52.5
LFH	62.8	63.6	<b>64.4</b>	65.1	67.0	61.5	62.3	<b>63.1</b>	63.9	65.2	61.5	62.2	<b>63.0</b>	63.8	65.6	59.2	60.0	<b>60.8</b>	61.6	62.8
Upper Lip to E	4.0	3.4	<b>2.8</b>	2.1	1.3	2.2	1.6	<b>1.1</b>	0.5	0.1	0.0	-0.7	<b>-1.3</b>	-1.9	-2.8	-1.4	-1.9	<b>-2.5</b>	-3.1	-3.4
Lower Lip to E	4.3	3.8	<b>3.3</b>	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.1	<b>1.6</b>	1.1	0.8	0.3	-0.3	<b>-0.8</b>	-1.3	-1.9	-1.2	-1.7	<b>-2.2</b>	-2.7	-3.0

<sup>a)</sup> Reference values of 12-year old children of this study.<sup>b)</sup> Reference values based on increments obtained from another (Thilander *et al.*, 2005).

significant ethnic difference in this study, neither for females (Table 5). Ethnic differences in conventional cephalometric methods have also been reported for Chinese versus Indians and Malays respectively [22], and Chinese versus Caucasian samples with malocclusions [23,24].

## GENDER DIFFERENCES

In this study there was a statistically-significant difference between male and female Chinese subjects for eight out of the seventeen variables (Table 3). Expressed in SD Scores [19] these gender differences were -0.4 to 0.8. The mandible was significantly more retrognathic, the SN to mandibular plane angle and maxillary to mandibular plane angle were steeper, and lower face height was larger in males. The Chinese male had a longer face than female because the upper and lower facial height were statistically-significant longer. Upper and lower lip to the esthetic line were statistically significant larger in male that means the Chinese male had a more fullness of lip. Previous cephalometric studies have indicated that there were some gender differences in the con-

ventional cephalometric parameters among Chinese populations [25-27].

In the Caucasian sample used in this study the gender differences of the cephalometric parameters were not marked with the exception of lower face height, upper and lower lip to the esthetic line (Table 4). This is consistent with a report that both angular and linear measurements in both genders in Caucasians were in general agreement [28]. Normative standards of modified Björk analysis for 10-,11-,13- and 14-year-old were estimated from values obtained from measurement obtained and interpolated from template of Swedish population study [17,18] and subtracted and added, respectively, to the standards of the 12 year-old of the present study, in an attempt to provide cephalometric standards for wider age range, separate for gender and ethnic group (Table 6).

In this study there was statistically significant sex difference in the Chinese cohort for half of the investigated cephalometric hard tissue variables (8/15), whereas in the previous study [9] only 20 per cent out the variables (5/26) were

different between the sexes. Of the eight hard-tissue cephalometric variables which were included in both studies, there was statistically significant sex difference for 3 only in this study, and two only in the other study, none in common. The two statistically significant sex difference in the previous study were related to the inclination of the lower incisor, which also had statistically significant ethnic difference between males in the previous study [12], whereas no ethnic difference was found in this study for either sex (Table 5).

## CONCLUSION

Cephalometric norms for the modified Björk's cephalometric analysis in southern Chinese children were established. It seems to be justifiable to use specific Chinese norms and separate for gender since this study has revealed that there were statistically significant differences in most cephalometric variables between Chinese males and females, and between Chinese and Caucasians children.

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