

## COMMENTARY

## CONCURRENCE BETWEEN THE MAXILLARY MIDLINE AND BISECTOR TO THE INTERPUPILLARY LINE

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The maxillary dental midline has special significance in restorative dentistry as well as in orthodontics. The esthetic import of the midline has been well elucidated in the landmark study by Kokich and colleagues, who also established the degree of midline deviation beyond which it was perceivable and considered unattractive.<sup>1</sup> One of the continuing challenges, however, is to establish ideal referents relative to which the midline position can be evaluated. Various points of reference include the philtrum of the lips, the base of the nasion, etc.<sup>2,3</sup> However, these reference points are influenced by several variations and, thus, may not provide a reliable perspective in all cases. The current article by Eskelsen and colleagues addresses the congruence between the maxillary dental midline and one such referent—the interpupillary bisector. The authors analyzed images from 102 dental students and assessed the coincidence between the midpupillary bisector and the maxillary midline.

During image acquisition, the authors positioned the subjects with the Frankfort Horizontal (FH) plane parallel to the floor during image acquisition. The FH plane, however, does exhibit deviation from the true horizontal, and, therefore, the use of natural head position may have provided a more accurate estimate.<sup>4</sup> The authors found that the interpupillary bisector did not appear to coincide with the maxillary dental midline. However, among males, there was a statistically significant deviation of the interpupillary line to the left of the maxillary dental midline. From this study, it would appear that parallelism of the interpupillary bisector with the maxillary midline could be more relevant than the actual coincidence of the two lines. As a topic for future research, it might be useful to establish the referents that different groups of individuals (laypersons, dentists, orthodontists, etc.) use during evaluation of the midline.

## REFERENCES

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