

## COMMENTARY

## INFLUENCE OF ESTHETIC DENTAL AND FACIAL MEASUREMENTS ON THE CAUCASIAN PATIENTS' SATISFACTION

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This study seeks to determine if certain parameters are used by patients to deem a smile to be esthetic and what the role of gender might be on their selection. Satisfying the esthetic expectations of our patients is paramount, so understanding the criteria used by patients for approval is invaluable. Studies have been performed measuring the variance in certain components of a smile acceptable to patients.<sup>1</sup> Patients are often more lenient than dentists on the amount of discrepancy from the accepted norm that they will accept and still consider as esthetic. Awareness of this range of deviation from the ideal is critical.

It is interesting to note from this study that a significant criteria used by females to evaluate their satisfaction is the width/height ratio of the central incisor. This has been previously recognized as being a key factor in determining the likelihood of smile approval by dentists with varying tooth width proportions.<sup>2</sup> Chairside esthetic measurement gauges have been created as a means of clinically evaluating the width/height ratio of maxillary central incisors.<sup>3</sup> Studies of pre- and post-treatment photographs displayed on the internet by dentists reveal a correction of the treated smile to more accepted norms of width/height ratios.<sup>4</sup> Creating a smile with the desired width/height ratio of the central incisor appears to be very important and is confirmed in this study.

Previous studies have noted a difference between male and female dentists of parameters used to evaluate ideal smile proportions.<sup>5</sup> It has been the observation of this author that the majority of patients requesting comprehensive smile rehabilitation have been female. However, the majority of dentists practicing in many countries worldwide have traditionally been male. The challenge is for a professional of the opposite sex to satisfy the layperson using varied criteria for esthetic success.

This study helps to expand our knowledge of understanding the factors used by our male and female patients to explain why they like their smiles. The evaluation of key proportions, measurements, and different esthetic parameters may be useful to better define an esthetic standard for an esthetic smile. Different genders, patient versus dentist expectations, and cultural biases make creating this ultimate standard more complex. More research is needed to determine the interplay of all these factors in creating patient satisfaction.

## REFERENCES

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