

Book Review

Facial Aesthetics: Concepts & Clinical Diagnosis

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Facial Aesthetics: Concepts and Clinical Diagnosis is an excellent illustrated resource for those who are interested in facial aesthetic surgery and dentistry. It is a comprehensive clinical textbook on the art and science of facial aesthetics for clinicians involved in the management of facial deformities: orthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, aesthetic dentists and plastic and reconstructive surgeons.

The aim of this book is to provide a comprehensive examination of facial aesthetics in the context of dentofacial and craniofacial diagnosis and treatment planning.

The 434 pages over 24 chapters are split into two distinct but related parts. The book provides extremely careful and precise research and practical clinical advice complemented by the generous use of illustrations and diagrams.

Part I is made up of four chapters, which discuss the historical concepts of facial aesthetics and cover facial beauty, proportion, expression, and the psychosocial implications of facial deformities. It incorporates all aspects relevant to the work of the clinician, including philosophical and scientific theories. Critical examination of facial proportions presents the fundamental principles used in ancient Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman times. The Renaissance section takes an in-depth look at Leonardo da Vinci's studies on the relationship of proportion in humans.

Facial expressions are fundamental to life and social communication. The text discusses the order of importance in human communication: 7% is verbal; the remaining 93% is non-verbal (38% tone and 55% body language). Health and psychosocial well-being are discussed in a section on psychological ramifications, with an emphasis on body dysmorphic disorder and disfigurement as a disability.

Part II of the book is structured in four sections. Section I explains the importance of patient interviews and clinical diagnostic records. The first chapter explains the importance of structured, well-organised interviewing, and attentive listening. The next is

about diagnostic records where each record type, background and lighting are discussed, including the importance of natural head position and the unreliability of anatomical planes owing to individual biological variation. The third chapter is about cephalometric analysis, which is described as applied geometry and is comprehensively covered with tables and illustrations that help the reader to understand the complexities of facial relationships in all planes.

Section II is about the clinical examination and analysis of the craniofacial complex: facial type, proportions and symmetry. It provides an essential reference for all maxillofacial, orthodontic and restorative trainees, as well as anyone with an interest in faces.

Section III presents a facial regional analysis using annotated illustrations and methodically explains each facial sub-unit.

Section IV specifically assesses smile and dentogingival complexes. The six keys to an ideal occlusion are discussed as well as dento-occlusal relationships, aetiology of malocclusion, oral health and function. Lip aesthetics, tooth inclination and phonetics are all considered in the smile aesthetics chapter.

In summary, this book is written in a clear and accessible format, with colour illustration throughout, an important guide for all the practitioners in the field of facial aesthetic surgery and aesthetic dentistry with an interest in refining their understanding and appreciation of the human face and applying practical protocols to their clinical diagnosis and treatment planning.

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