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Original articles

Aesthetic face evaluation in individuals with Dentofacial Deformities

Avaliação estética da face em indivíduos com deformidades dentofaciais

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: to analyze the face aesthetic features of individuals with dentofacial deformities (DDF) and the possible aspects related to skin features such as wrinkles and grooves.

Methods: we evaluated 36 young adults (average 27.22 years), in three groups, DDF standard II, III and control group (CG). Facial analysis was performed using the Orofacial Myofunctional Evaluation – MBGR Protocol. We developed a facial aesthetic evaluation protocol from validated analyzes for wrinkle classification, marionette lines and grooves in the orbicularis eye area. The relevant statistical tests were performed.

Results: individuals with DDF and 50% of the control group showed changes regarding facial asymmetry and nasolabial angle, with a statistically significant difference between DDF-II, III and DDF-GC. Individuals with DDF presented a greater frequency of changes to the vertical grooves in the lips area as well as marionette lines, with no differences between groups. There was a positive correlation between procerus grooves and vertical lip grooves, grooves in the orbicularis eye region with nasolabial folds and marionette lines. The nasolabial angle was correlated with forehead grooves. Age correlated with nasolabial folds, grooves in the procerus area, marionette lines and lip grooves in the orbicular area.

Conclusion: individuals with DDF presented alterations in their facial symmetry, nasolabial angle and skin regarding wrinkles. Facial aesthetic aspects correlated with each other as well as the nasolabial angle with forehead grooves. Age also showed a correlation with facial aesthetics.

Keywords: Aesthetics; Face; Maxillofacial Abnormalities

RESUMO

Objetivo: analisar as características estéticas da face em indivíduos com deformidades dentofaciais (DDF) e os possíveis aspectos que se relacionam com aspectos da pele quanto às rugas e sulcos.

Métodos: avaliou-se 36 adultos jovens (média de 27,22 anos), em três grupos, DDF padrão II, III e grupo controle (GC). Realizou-se análise facial utilizando o Protocolo de Avaliação Miofuncional Orofacial MBGR. Elaborou-se um protocolo de avaliação estético facial a partir das análises validadas para a classificação de rugas, linhas de marionete e sulcos na região orbicular dos olhos. Aplicaram-se testes estatísticos pertinentes.

Resultados: indivíduos com DDF e 50% do GC apresentaram alteração quanto à assimetria facial e ângulo nasolabial, com diferença estatisticamente significante entre DDF-II, DDF-III e GC. Indivíduos com DDF mostraram maior frequência de alteração para os sulcos verticais na região dos lábios e linhas de marionete, sem diferenças entre os grupos. Houve correlação positiva entre sulco na região do prócero e os sulcos verticais nos lábios, sulco na região do orbicular dos olhos com o sulco nasogeniano e com as linhas de marionete. O ângulo nasolabial correlacionou-se com sulco na região da testa. A idade correlacionou-se com sulco nasogeniano, sulco na região do prócero, linhas de marionete e sulcos na região do orbicular dos lábios.

Conclusão: indivíduos com DDF apresentaram alteração de simetria facial, ângulo nasolabial e da pele quanto às rugas. Aspectos estéticos da face correlacionaram-se entre si, bem como ângulo nasolabial com sulcos na testa. A idade também demonstrou relação com a estética facial.

Descritores: Estética; Face; Anormalidade Maxilofacial

INTRODUCTION

Cosmetic surgery and dermatology use photogrammetric and anthropometric facial analyzes to grade facial characteristics and choose procedures¹⁻³. Literature shows that dentistry uses cephalometric analyzes, numerical and subjective facial analysis to verify bone, dental and muscular harmony, as well as the pleasantness and attractiveness of the smile⁴⁻⁷. Such aspects are compromised in individuals with dentofacial deformity (DFD), which may impair self-esteem^{8,9}.

Speech therapy uses myofunctional evaluation proposals for the diagnosis, conduct and therapeutic prognosis to understand the functional and aesthetic balance of the stomatognathic system. To do so, we analyze the face observing the skeletal, dental and muscular relationship^{10,11}.

As for facial aesthetics and the presence of wrinkles and skin grooves, some papers, using different study methods, have demonstrated the effectiveness of myofunctional treatment for this purpose¹²⁻¹⁶. In this context, the suggested evaluations involved subjective analysis before and after the speech-language intervention^{12,14-16}. Two of these studies analyzed the aesthetic appearance of the nasolabial grooves, measuring them by the distance between anthropometric points^{12,14}. Another, on the other hand, compared the sides of the face in relation specifically to the eyes orbicularis muscles¹⁵. Finally, two others demonstrated the myofunctional and aesthetic evaluation more thoroughly, observing wrinkles in various parts of the face, and on both sides, but they also observed them qualitatively^{16,17}. However, we have not found any evaluation proposals grading changes, specifically in cutaneous tissue, in relation to wrinkles and grooves on the entire face, as well as their localization and the difference between both sides.

The DFD population deserves attention on the facial aspect since DFD causes functional changes¹⁸, and these morphofunctional changes can accentuate expression wrinkles¹⁹. It is expected that individuals with DFD and a consequent soft tissue change, due to their own structural and functional condition, overload their facial muscular activities in a compensatory and adaptive way, predisposing the appearance of wrinkles and signs of aging.

Thus, the present study aims to analyze facial aesthetic aspects of soft tissues in individuals with DFD comparing them to a control group.

METHODS

After the approval of the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry of Bauru - FDB/USP (No. 142/2011), 36 individuals paired according to gender and age (mean = 27.22 years) and facial pattern were selected and divided into three groups: 12 with DFD type II (DFD-II); 12 with type III (DDF-III), and 12 control subjects (CG).

All participants signed the Informed Consent Term.

The photographic documentation of the participants' faces consisted of frontal and right side images, taken while participants were seated 1m away from a camera (Sony Cyber-shot DSC-H9) positioned on a tripod placed in front of them.

The subjective facial analysis that grades the facial pattern was used in the present study, performed according to Capelozza Filho et al. (2004) 20. It assesses the individual in frontal and lateral norms and is recommended in the Orofacial Miofunctional Evaluation Protocol MBGR (GENARO et al., 2009) ¹⁰. Thus, subjective facial analysis was carried out in the frontal norm for facial symmetry of the following regions: infra-orbital plane, zygomatic region, cheeks, nasolabial grooves, upper and lower lip, lips and chin commissure, as well as the mandible body and ramus. We analyzed the individuals' hemifaces, verifying if they were similar (symmetric) or different (asymmetric). The lateral norm analyzes individuals regarding their nasolabial angle, which suggests the relation between the maxilla and mandible.

We also developed an additional protocol to analyze the facial aesthetics regarding skin aspects, such as wrinkles and grooves. This protocol establishes the aesthetic analysis of nasogenian grooves, vertical ridges in the lips area and the orbicularis eye region, procerus and forehead, as well as the appearance of marionette lines, as shown in Figure 1.

The above-mentioned protocol used Glogau's wrinkle classification²¹ and the validated scales for classifying marionette lines²² and grooves in the orbicularis²³. Duly authorized by Richard Glogau and Merz Pharmaceuticals – the copyright holders of the Validation Scales for Marionette Lines and Crow's feet described by Carruthers et al. (2008a, 2008b)^{22, 23} – a protocol was developed for the analysis of facial aesthetics regarding skin aspects, by analyzing skin wrinkles and grooves in these regions and also in other areas susceptible to groove formation during facial expressions and orofacial functions.

Wrinkles were classified into types I, II, III or IV ²¹, as shown in Figure 2. Five types of marionette lines were investigated and classified as follows: Type Zero for absence of skin folds and visible solid lines; Type 1, type 2, type 3 and type 4, as the severity of the

folds increased²², as shown in Figure 3. Five types of wrinkles were established in the analysis of the orbicularis lines, both at rest and smiling, ranging from Zero to 4, gradually ²³, according to their severity (Figure 4).

Facial Aesthetics Analysis						
Nasogenian gro	ooves [] (Glogau's analys	sis, 1996)				
Right:	(0) type I	(1) type II	(2) ty	oe III	(3) type IV	
Left:	(0) type I	(1) type II	(2) typ	oe III	(3) type IV	
Symmetry:	(0) present	(1) absent		to the right	\Box > to the left	
Vertical groove	s in the lips region []	(Glogau's analysis,	1996)			
Upper lip:	(0) type I	(1) type II	(2) ty	pe III	(3) type IV	
Lower lip:	(0) type I	(1) type II	(2) ty	pe III	(3) type IV	
Grooves in the	procerus region []					
	(0) absent	(1) present				
Forehead lines	[]					
	(0) absent	(1) present				
Marionette line	s [] (Carruthers et al. and	alysis, 2008c)				
Right:	(0) type zero	(1) type 1	(2) type 2	(3) type 3	(4) type 4	
Left:	(0) type zero	(1) type 1	(2) type 2	(4) type 3	(4) type 4	
Symmetry:	(0) present	(1) absent	\Box > to the right	\Box > to the left		
Grooves in the	orbicularis eye region [] (Carruthers et a	I. analysis, 2008b)			
Right:	(0) type zero	(1) type 1	(2) type 2	(3) type 3	(4) type 4	
Left:	(0) type zero	(1) type 1	(2) type 2	(4) type 3	(4) type 4	
Symmetry:	(0) present	(1) absent	\square > to the right	\Box > to the left		

Figure 1. Protocol of facial aesthetics analysis for skin characteristics

Adapted Glogau's scale (1996)

Type I "no wrinkles" - Minimal wrinkles - Patient's age: 20 or 30 years old
Type II "Wrinkles in motion - Smile lines begin to appear - Patient's age: late 30's to 40's
Type III "wrinkles at rest" - Wrinkles even when the face is at rest - Patient's age: 50's or older
Type IV "only wrinkles" - Wrinkles throughout, no normal skin - Patient's age: 60's or 70's

Figure 2. Adapted Glogau's scale to assess the skin aesthetical aspects.

Validated grading scale for Marionette lines – Carruthers et al. (2008a)

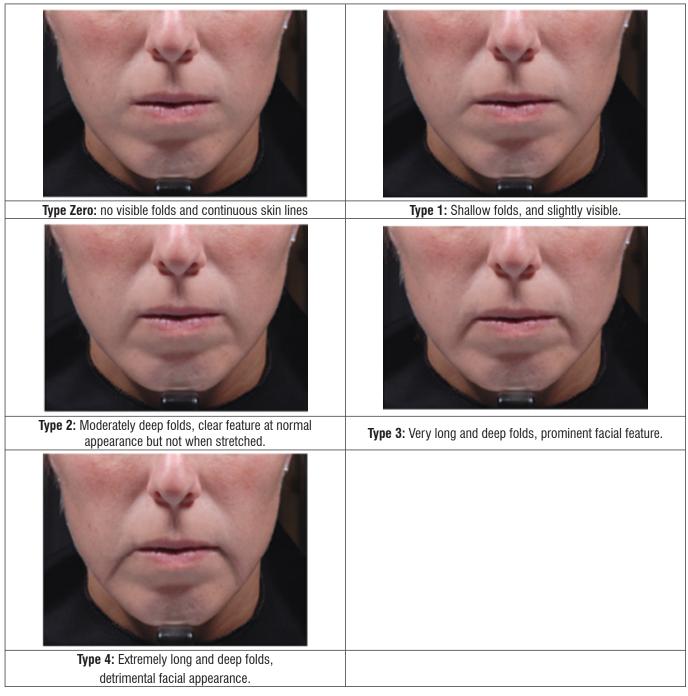


Figure 3. Validated grading scale for marionette lines.

Type Zero: Type 1: Type 2: Type 3: Type 4: Very thin wrinkles Thin wrinkles Moderate wrinkles Severe wrinkles no wrinkles Type Zero: Type 1: Type 2: Type 3: Type 4: Very thin wrinkles Severe wrinkles no wrinkles Thin wrinkles Moderate wrinkles

Validated grading scale for "crow's feet" lines. Carruthers et al. (2008b)

Figure 4. Validated grading scale for the orbicularis eye lines.

We compared the images of the individuals in our study to those found in the reference literature²¹⁻²³. The score zero was always standardized as the best condition for each of the evaluated aspects. The analyzes were carried out by three examiners, all specialists in Orofacial Motricity, who received a letter explaining the procedures and assigned a score according to the aesthetic condition of each item investigated. The agreement between at least two examiners was considered as a response. For the aspects in which the three evaluators assigned a different score, a joint analysis and discussion were carried out, in order to reach a consensus.

The comparison between the groups occurred through the Kruskal-Wallis and Miller tests with significant values of p < 0.05. Spearman correlation test was used for the analysis of the aesthetic aspects

correlating with each other and with age; the significant correlation values for R (0.10-0.30=weak correlation, 0.40-0.60=moderate correlation, and 0.70-1=strong correlation). p significant values were p <0.05.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the occurrence of asymmetry for all individuals belonging to DFD groups, 50% of individuals with dentofacial balance, type I. Table 1 also shows a predominance of changes in the nasolabial angle in individuals with DFD types II and III, although they were compatible with each type of deformity. It was observed, too, that DFD-II and DFD-III groups presented a statistically significant difference in relation to the presence of symmetry and to nasolabial angle characteristics, when compared to the control (p <0.05), as shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Occurrence of changes	regarding the frontal fa	cial analysis (symmetry)	and lateral (na	asolabial angle), for all groups

Essial Apolysia	C	CG		DFD-II		DFD-III	
Facial Analysis	Normal	Altered	Normal	Altered	Normal	Altered	
Frontal norm: symmetry	6(50%)	6(50%)	0(0%)	12(100%)	0(0%)	12(100%)	
Lateral norm: nasolabial angle	12(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	12(100%)	3(25%)	9 (75%)	

CG= control group; DFD-II= dentofacial deformity type II; DFD-III= dentofacial deformity type III

Table 2. Kruskal Wallis and Miller tests results com	paring all groups for the facial analy	sis regarding symmetry and nasolabial angle

Aspect	Comparison	p* value
Summetry	GC ≠ DDF-II	< 0.05
Symmetry	GC ≠ DDF-III	<0,05
Nacalabial angla	GC ≠ DDF-II	< 0.05
Nasolabial angle	GC ≠ DDF-III	<0,05

CG= control group; DFD-II= dentofacial deformity type II; DFD-III= dentofacial deformity type III *Significant values- (p<0,05) Tests Kruskal- Wallis and Miller

The results obtained from the protocol of facial aesthetic evaluation showed a change in the aspects investigated in all groups. DFD groups presented a higher prevalence of vertical grooves in the lips region as well as marionette lines, but no significant differences among them (Table 3).

The data of facial analysis did not show a correlation with those analyzing facial aesthetics, except for grooves in the forehead region that presented a relation with the nasolabial angle (p = 0.03). Thus, there was

a correlation between facial aesthetic aspects and the skin.

We observed a correlation between the grooves in the procerus region and the vertical grooves of the lips, as well as between the grooves in the eyes orbicularis region and the nasogenian grooves and the marionette lines. There was also a relationship between the individuals' age and their skin grooves, as shown in Table 4. This factor was significant for grooves in the nasogenian, the procerus region, orbicularis region and puppet lines.

Table 3. Frequency of changes regarding facial aesthetics features and comparison of results among all groups

	C	G	DFD-II		DFD-III		Result of	
Aesthetics aspect	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	statistical analysis*	
Nasogenian grooves	83%(n=10)	17%(n=2)	100%(n=12)	0%(n=0)	83%(n=10)	17%(n=2)	p<0,05	
Vertical grooves in the lips region	75%(n=9)	25%(n=3)	58%(n=7)	42%(n=5)	58%(n=7)	42%(n=5)	p<0,05	
Grooves in the procerus region	100%(n=12)	0%(n=0)	100%(n=12)	0%(n=0)	92%(n=11)	8%(n=1)	p<0,05	
Forehead lines	83%(n=10)	17%(n=2)	100%(n=12)	0%(n=0)	92%(n=11)	8%(n=1)	p<0,05	
Marionette lines	75%(n=9)	25%(n=3)	75%(n=9)	25%(n=3)	58%(n=7)	42%(n=5)	p<0,05	
Grooves in the eyes orbicularis region	42%(n=5)	58%(n=7)	42%(n=5)	58%(n=7)	42%(n=5)	58%(n=7)	p<0,05	

CG= control group; DFD-II= dentofacial deformity type II; DFD-III= dentofacial deformity type III

*Significant values- (p<0.05) Tests Kruskal-Wallis and Miller

Comparison	Value for R*	p** value
Procerus grooves X lips vertical grooves	0.70	0.001
Groove in the orbicularis eye region X nasogenian groove	0.,45	0.006
Groove in the orbicularis eye region X marionette lines	0.43	0.010
Age X nasogenian groove	0.39	0.01
Age X procerus grooves	0.35	0.04
Age X marionete lines	0.39	0.02
Age X Groove in the orbicularis eye region	0.67	< 0.001

Table 4. Results of correlation analysis between the facial aesthetics analysis variables and the results between age x facial aesthetics analysis variables

* Values for R (correlation: 0.10-0.30 = weak; 0.40-0.60-moderate; 0,70-1,0 = strong)

** Significant values (p<0.05) - Spearman's correlation coefficient.

DISCUSSION

The face fundamentally represents the human physical appearance; its beauty and attractiveness depends on the judgment, the look and the individual preferences of those evaluating it²⁴. Beauty is influenced by culture, education and the media; the interest in the pursuit of a balance has increased even in terms of other aspects such as those representing youth-fulness. This factor looks for good relations of space, form, proportion, structure, movement and harmony²⁵.

Some of the aspects mentioned in the literature as important criteria to compose facial aesthetics are: the face outline, maxillary and mandibular balance, nasolabial folds, nasolabial angle, chin angle, neck/ chin line, infra-orbital line, nose, eyes, eyebrows, thickness and shape of the lips, smile line, dental exposure, skin, wrinkles in all facial thirds, asymmetries and lip closure²⁴⁻²⁹.

As for facial asymmetry in frontal norm, our results showed the occurrence of facial asymmetry both in individuals with DFD-II and DFD-III. Another study, performed in the pre-operative period, also found that 11 of the 17 subjects with DFD were asymmetric; however, the authors did not mention if these asymmetries were concentrated in a particular facial pattern³⁰.

Still considering the facial symmetry aspect, we observed a statistically significant difference between the control and DDF-II and III groups, with a greater occurrence of changes in the DFD groups, as compared to the control. Several factors may be related to asymmetries, such as genetic-congenital malformations, traumas or habits/functional deviations, the latter of which may result from individual growth or compensations³¹. The literature points out, specifically for individuals with DFD type III, six causes for asymmetry: discrepancies in the jaw height, in the mandibular length, and mandibular inclination, as well as discrepancies in the mandibular body length and height³². Another study also found asymmetry of the mandibular ramus in DFD type III individuals III in the pre-surgical period³³. All these studies corroborate with our work regarding the presence of asymmetries in the pre-surgical period for individuals with DFD types II and III. However, they differ from the facial analysis used in the present study, since they used other assessment methods, such as hard tissue analysis, through radiographs, cephalometry and three-dimensional analysis.

For the lateral norm assessment, we considered the analysis of the nasolabial angle, which measures the nasal base in relation to the upper lip²⁰. The analysis performed in this study was a subjective one. The statistical analysis results showed that the nasolabial angle was different between the control (type I) and the DFD-II and III groups. This corroborates with data found in the literature, which assessed only type I individuals to study the facial profile of Brazilian individuals with normal occlusal characteristics, considering that they differ from those with types II and III, particularly in the aesthetic issue. The nasolabial angle analysis allows the estimation of the discrepancy of the maxillary position observed in lateral norm in cases of DFD II and III^{24,34}. As for individuals with facial types I, II and III with slight discrepancies, the literature shows that the facial profile is counterbalanced, not compromising the facial aesthetics. These authors did not find an association between the profile aesthetics and the nasolabial angle²⁷. It is worth considering that our study assessed cases with maxillomandibular discrepancies of skeletal order and surgical indication.

In the speech-language facial aesthetics evaluation regarding wrinkles and grooves, the analysis occurs in a subjective and qualitative way¹⁹. The literature has

pointed to the need to quantify these changes^{12,14-16}, but no proposal of facial aesthetic evaluation with scores for changes has been found to analyze them quantitatively. In this sense, the proposal, hereby presented, specifies the grooves formation regions and can grade the severity of the aesthetic condition, according to the presented aspect.

The proposed evaluation aimed at investigating the regions predisposing the formation of grooves and proved to be complementary to the proposals of myofunctional orofacial examinations^{10,11}. The analyzes found in the literature to classify the lips vertical grooves and the nasogenian grooves²¹, the puppet lines²² and the eyes orbicularis grooves²³, although classifying the evaluated aspects, do not assign them scores.

Facial aesthetic changes were observed in DFD individuals regarding wrinkles and skin grooves, corroborating with the literature¹⁹. Structural alterations can generate tensions and the formation of wrinkles, a fact observed in relation to the grooves and puppet lines in the lips region for DFD groups, which can be justified by compensations and lip adaptations during the orofacial functions¹⁸.

Although the highest frequencies of changes were found in DFD groups, no significant differences were seen among them. Thus, the possibility of differences exists, but we could not confirm it, due to the size of our sample. We suggest a new study with a larger sample to confirm this trend. In addition, the literature does not show a relationship between DFD and expression wrinkles; however, researches have shown that DFD individuals had difficulties to perform facial mimics in the preoperative period^{35,36}.

The results obtained through the nasolabial angle analysis were also compared to those of facial aesthetics regarding wrinkles and grooves considered in this study. We only found a statistical significance when the nasolabial angle was correlated to the presence of forehead grooves. Considering that the nasolabial angle expresses the position of the anteriorized or retruded maxilla, muscular adaptations and adjustments are expected in the presence of maxillomandibular imbalance for chewing, swallowing and speech functions, as well as facial expression and mimicry. If the conditions of the face's lower third are not balanced, both in function and in tone, there may be a compensation of the musculature in the upper third, since a facial expression needs a joint action between the lips and the entire musculature of the face, for example, smiling³⁷. However, we expected to find more aesthetic aspects compromised in the DFD individuals studied, owing to their orofacial myofunctional characteristics.

Significant results for some of the aspects analyzed were observed when we correlated the aesthetic aspects. These relationships refer to the face upper and lower thirds, showing possible muscular compensations due to the structural and functional imbalance present in DFD II and III, since facial muscles function as a coordinated group and most of the expressions result from combined actions among them³⁸.

Therefore, the suggested proposal assesses all thirds of the face, allowing the observation of the relationship between them and assigning them numerical values. We carried out an age analysis, even though we were studying young adults, because this variable directly influences facial aesthetics, and very thin lines can be observed from 30 years of age on¹⁰. Surprisingly, we observed a correlation in four of the aspects analyzed: nasogenian grooves, procerus grooves, puppet lines and eyes orbicularis grooves, in other words, at a younger age than reported by the literature, considering that the average age of the subjects in our study was 27.22 years old. This result may also be attributed to the compensations performed by DFD individuals and, in this sense, the protocol of facial aesthetics analysis for skin aspects was able to classify grooves in their initial phase.

Our results showed that it is possible to grade skin changes in different regions of the face using characteristics of facial aesthetic aspects, giving them scores. Thus, this proposal can be used in the orofacial myofunctional examination to identify alterations, as well as to prove the efficacy of orofacial myofunctional therapy regarding facial aesthetics and wrinkles, and not only in DFD individuals. Its contribution can undoubtedly be directed to the entire orofacial motricity, although further studies are needed to develop all the validation steps related to the proposed protocol.

Finally, it is worth considering the methodological differences between other works described in the literature and this research, since we used a validated protocol for wrinkle analysis, along with a specific protocol for marionette lines and grooves in the eyes orbicularis region^{21, 22, 23}. However, the comparison between the protocol parameters and the individuals with DFD types II and III was still subjective, using the examiners' experience and subjectivity to analyze such data.

CONCLUSION

DFD individuals presented aesthetic alterations regarding facial symmetry, nasolabial angle, and skin aesthetic aspects such as wrinkles and grooves. There was a relation between the aesthetic aspects regarding the skin, as well as the nasolabial angle with the presence of forehead grooves. Age was an important factor correlating with nasogenian grooves, procerus grooves, puppet lines and the lips orbicularis grooves.

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