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Patient dissatisfaction following rhinoplasty: a 10-year experience in Iran

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Abstract

Background The nose is one of the most prominent parts of the face and plays a significant role in peoples' self-satisfaction as well as quality of life. Rhinoplasty is considered as one of the most numerous and delicate cosmetic surgeries all around the world that can be performed for functional issues, esthetic issues, or both. In this study, we aimed to evaluate the dissatisfaction of patients who had undergone rhinoplasty surgery and inform the surgeons to improve the surgical techniques to prevent probable future complaints.

Method This retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted to report various aspects of dissatisfaction of patients following rhinoplasty. All available files in the Fars Forensic Medicine Department between 2011 and 2020 were reviewed, and the required information was extracted.

Results Out of 117 patients, 68.4% were females and 31.6% were males. Most of the patients were in the age range of 30–34 years. In terms of educational attainment, the highest frequency is associated with academically educated patients and the lowest with a diploma. The majority of cases filed for litigation less than 6 months after their rhinoplasty. The first rank among the factors of dissatisfaction with surgeries belonged to “respiratory problems” (36.8%) followed by “dissatisfaction with the general shape of the nose” (34.2%).

Conclusion Our study shows that middle-aged female patients may be more difficult to satisfy. In general, at younger ages, patients complain about esthetics, and with aging, most patients feel dissatisfied with nasal function.

Keywords Nose, Rhinoplasty, Dissatisfaction, Complaints, Forensic medicine

Background

Nose is the major portal of the respiratory and one of the most important organs in the human body [1]. The nasal complex is divided into two parts regarding function and location [2]. The external nose is a pyramidal structure, situated in the midface, with its base on the facial skeleton and its apex projecting anteriorly, while two symmetrical bones at the top and two sets of paired cartilage at the bottom support this structure [2]. On the inside,

the human nose is composed of several layers of ciliated epithelial cells covered with a mucous blanket throughout the nasal cavity [3].

Nasal complex and related structures play an important role in the functions that include purifying, warming, and humidifying the inhaled air as well as directing exhaled air out and providing local immunity [2, 4]. In addition, a desired nasal feature can improve the individuals' esthetic and self-confidence additionally [5]. To improve nasal appearance and function, multidimensional and extensive surgeries have been designed including different types of rhinoplasties [6].

Rhinoplasty is considered one of the most numerous and delicate cosmetic surgeries all around the world [7]. These surgeries involve alteration in the bony and cartilage structures of the nose and can result in the elimination of nasal deviation and asymmetries, elimination of

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In less than the first 6 months after surgery, the predominant causes of dissatisfaction were olfactory weakness and nasal bridge deformity; both can be due to severe swelling of the nose during the first months after surgery and the presence of a nasal dressing, which makes the shape of the patient's nose unclear and reduces the individual's olfactory level. Among those who reported dissatisfaction 5 years or more after their rhinoplasty, the most common complaint was nose tip deformity.

Due to the increasing rate of rhinoplasty dissatisfaction, more studies are necessary in the future. The major technical drawback of our study is that we have not examined any CT scan images or nose photography of our cases since we could not access them; therefore, we could not determine if there was a focused selectivity in the reported dissatisfactions. Additionally, an increase in the number of participants of both genders, different age ranges, and other racial population are recommended for further studies. However, we believe that our study represents some important key point for further studies in this field.

Conclusions

Rhinoplasty remains a complex operation due to the myriad of physical and psychological variables involved. In conclusion, most frequent dissatisfaction in patients receiving rhinoplasty was postoperative respiratory problem followed by unsatisfactory nasal shape. There was no association between dissatisfaction after rhinoplasty and patient age/gender. Most dissatisfied patients have academic status. This can show a direct relationship between the increase in patients' demand with increasing level of education. However, there was no association between dissatisfaction after rhinoplasty and patient level of education.

Functional problems of the nose after surgery are more important for men, while women are more sensitive to their appearance. In general, it seems that with aging, most patients feel dissatisfied with nasal function after undergoing rhinoplasty.

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Authors' contributions

FG, conceptualization, methodology, and supervision; HA, data curation, visualization, and writing — reviewing and editing; and GD, data gathering, software, methodology, and writing — reviewing and editing. The authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors. The study protocol was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, and written informed consent was obtained.

The principle of information confidentiality was observed throughout the study, and written informed consent was obtained.

Consent for publication

Patients signed informed consent regarding publishing their data and photographs.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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