

OP22 PERSONALITY AND SELF-PERCEPTION OF FACIAL APPEARANCE

Georgios Kanavakis¹, Carlin Weaver², Nicole Mahoney³, Christos Katsaros⁴, Nikolaos Gkantidis⁴,
¹Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA, USA, ²Private practice, Swampscott, MA, USA, ³Private practice, Dallas, TX, USA and ⁴Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, University of Bern, Switzerland

AIMS: To investigate the effect of psychosocial traits and personality on self-perception of facial appearance.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD: Five hundred and twenty eight volunteers (186 males, 342 females), who were all dental students at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. In order to be included in the study, participants had to be 21-35 years old and speak English as a native language. Volunteers with craniofacial syndromes, a history of facial plastic or reconstructive surgery, or visible deformations of the face were excluded from the investigation. Assessment of participants' perceptions regarding their facial appearance was performed with a short questionnaire, and answers were recorded with Visual Analogue Scales. Self esteem was evaluated with the Single-Item Self-Esteem scale, and the Antonovsky 13-item questionnaire (SOC-13) was used to assess participants' sense of coherence. The Positive and Negative Affects Schedule, the Satisfaction With Life Scale, and the Big-Five Inventory (44) were also used to assess participants' personality traits. Histograms were used to demonstrate data distribution and test for normality. Correlations between normally distributed and skewed continuous variables were performed using Pearson correlation and Spearman's rho, respectively. Comparisons between groups were performed with Student's *t*- and Mann-Whitney *U*-tests. All statistical analyses were performed at the 0.05 level of statistical significance.

RESULTS: Age and previous orthodontic treatment did not have an effect on participants' perceptions about their facial attractiveness. Females, however, appeared to perceive themselves less attractive, and were less satisfied with their facial appearance ($\Delta m = 3.8$; $P = 0.001$ / $\Delta m = 4.38$; $P = 0.018$). With regard to personality traits, self-esteem, extraversion, openness and conscientiousness had a weak positive impact on self-perception of facial appearance ($R_{se} = 0.43$ / $R_{ex} = 0.15$ / $R_o = 2$ / $R_{co} = 0.21$), whereas neuroticism tended to have a weak negative effect ($R_n = -0.3$).

CONCLUSION: Personality traits appear to be weakly associated with self-perception of facial appearance. Other factors such as facial shape and symmetry may be more important and need to be further investigated.