



0463

Differences in Aesthetics Perception of Dentistry Students in Different Grades

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Objectives The aim of present study was to evaluate how smile features are perceived by dental students and to reveal the more prominent changes in smile aesthetics.

Methods 299 dental students who agreed to take part in were participated in current study. A frontal photo of one patient was taken which has the most ideal smile we encountered in clinical conditions, after the consent form. Adjustments were made so that only the lips and teeth were visible. With the Adobe Photoshop program, adjustments that would disrupt the aesthetic appearance of the teeth and surrounding tissues were made gradually. Gummy smile, diastema, tooth color change, midline shift, crown length and width, buccal corridor, peg lateral and lip appearance parameters were altered on the photographs. The photographs adjusted were directed to 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades dental students via a Google survey. They were asked to score the photographs that looked complicated, 'How beautiful do you find this smile?', using the VAS scale. Furthermore, our researcher (dentist), who knew which adjustment were made in the photographs, was asked to score the photographs.

Results Compared with answers given by the dentist, there is no significant difference between the students ($p > 0.05$). A significant difference was found between grades for the photo with the ideal smile ($p = 0.001$). In terms of gender, while women selected those 1- and 4-mm gummy smile, 2-mm expanded central tooth, 4-mm extended central tooth, D2 colored teeth according to the vita scale, 1-mm small peg lateral were significantly unacceptable aesthetic ($p < 0.05$), likewise, they thought that the 1-mm expanded central tooth, C1 colored teeth according to the vita scale, 3-mm buccal corridor and 1-mm midline shift had a significantly satisfactory aesthetic appearance ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions While dental students could notice some parameters in the adjustment made photographs, they could not distinguish most of them.