

Smile Design and Treatment Planning With the Help of a Comprehensive Esthetic Evaluation Form

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• Smile • Design • Treatment planning • Evaluation form

In the modern practice of dentistry, it is no longer acceptable to just repair individual teeth. Increasingly more patients are demanding a final appearance that is not only physiologically and mechanically sound but also esthetically pleasing.¹ In addition to restoring and reconstructing the broken down dentition, bleaching, bonding, and veneering have opened the doors to a wide variety of elective dental treatments to enhance appearance, often reversing the visual signs of aging.^{2,3} Understanding patient expectations is critical for clinicians to develop a treatment plan that is not only sound for the dental tissue but also esthetically pleasing. Often patients may not be able to identify their needs in anything more than short sentences stating their chief complaints. Clinicians must then decide whether the expectations can be met. If these expectations cannot be met, the case will likely fail.⁴⁻⁶ Three simple questions, asked at the beginning of the Smile Evaluation Form, usually allow patients to express their needs clearly (**Fig. 1**).

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1. Are you happy with the way your teeth appear when you smile? YES NO (circle one)

2. If NO, what is it about your smile you would like to change?

Patients requests and expectations:

3. Please Check Your Preferences:

☐ White Aligned Teeth

☐ Natural Teeth with Slight Irregularities

Fig. 1. Questionnaire for patients to determine chief complaints.

If clinicians believe they have the experience and ability to meet the expectations, they must then carefully consider the patient in entirety.⁷ This thorough evaluation must include a facial analysis, dental–facial analysis, and dental analysis, because each of these components and how they build on one another will provide the lattice structure for the finished case.

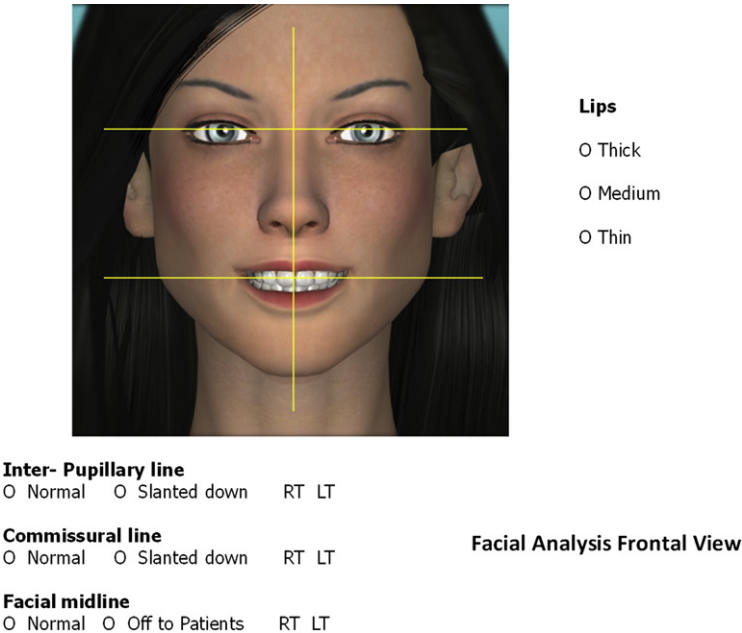


Fig. 2. The first yellow horizontal line from the top is the interpupillary line. It passes through the center of the pupil of each eye. The horizontal line below this is called the commissural line, which passes through the corners where the upper and lower lips meet. These lines should normally be parallel to the incisal and occlusal planes of the patient's teeth. The thicknesses of the upper and lower lips are also noted and a description checked off. The need for possible lip enhancement or reduction also might be noted at this time. A vertical yellow line is drawn through the glabella (centered between the eyebrows), the tip of the nose, through the center of the philtrum, the center of Cupid's bow, and finally to the center of the chin. The resultant vertical line is the facial midline and is identified and analyzed as normal or curved. LT, left; RT, right.

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