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Facial ageing in South African adult males

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Highlights:

- A scoring system for facial features showing senescence was developed.
- South Africans tend to show delayed crease formation compared to Europeans.
- Early-onset cheek hollowing occurs in South Africans compared to Europeans.
- South Africans have thicker lips across all ages than Europeans.
- An average face per decade was constructed as a visual guide for forensic practise.

Abstract

Knowledge of facial ageing is important in forensic facial reconstruction and photo identification. Previous studies mostly investigated facial ageing in European faces, and this research therefore aims to provide data on patterns of facial ageing in an African sample. One hundred eighty-nine black South African males aged 20 years and older were photographed in anterior and lateral views. Facial images were captured in a consistent position by using a Canon EOS 1300D camera and 18- to 55-mm EFS lens. Thirty individuals per decade were included, with the 80+ age category being limited to only nine participants. A facial ageing scoring system, based on previous research, was constructed for non-metric age changes such as appearance of wrinkles and sagging around the orbital area.

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