

Morphometry of the Nasolabial Complex in Adult Indian Population

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I. Introduction

Anthropometry of lip-nose complex has been extensively studied for European population.¹⁻⁶ However, corresponding studies in case of Indian population are very scarce.³⁻⁹ Hence anthropometric study of lip-nose complex was undertaken. This study involves comparison with available data from literature. The objective was to study the morphometry of the nasolabial complex in Indian population.

II. Methods

The procedure of measuring the lip-nose complex was explained to each individual resulting in the accurate measurements due to lack of anxiety on the part of individual. The morphometry was done on 100 adults (age range: 18-45 yrs). Among them 44 were males and 56 were females. The parameters like vertical lip height, cupid's bow width, total width of the mouth, columellar height, columellar width, nasal width and dome height were measured. The measurements were repeatedly taken for each individual to ensure the accuracy. The points of lip-nose complex were marked using marking pen (Fig. 1) and the linear measurements were taken using digital vernier caliper. The vertical height of the lip was from the columellar base to cupid's bow peak. This parameter was chosen against base of columella to tubercle since it has significance in cleft lip surgery. The cupid's bow width was measured from philtrum peak to peak. The total width of mouth was the commissure to commissure distance.

III. Results

The measurements were statistically analysed (arithmetic mean and standard deviation were calculated) and tabulated (Table 1). The results were compared with available data for Caucasians, blacks and Chinese (Table 2).

IV. Discussion

The present study establishes the basal values for various parameters of lip-nose complex of the Indian population. Since standard deviations for Caucasians and blacks being not available only mean values are compared. The present study reveals that vertical lip height, cupid's bow width, total width of the mouth and columellar height were more amongst males compared to females. The same pattern is seen with Caucasians and blacks. Columellar height is more in male as well as in female adult Caucasians compared to Indians and blacks. Columellar height is lowest amongst Chinese compared to other races.

The Indian males as well as females have lowest columellar width compared to Caucasians and blacks, which again indicates a change in growth pattern. There is a resemblance in columellar width between Chinese and Indians. Nasal width is more amongst Indian males compared to Indian females. Nasal width is maximum amongst blacks compared to Indians and Caucasians. Indian males have larger values for columellar height and columellar width. Vertical height of the lip is more amongst Indian males compared to females. Adult Caucasians have more vertical height of the lip compared to Indians and blacks and Indian males and females have the lowest vertical height of the lip.

Cupid's bow width is same amongst adult Indian males have wide oral commissure compared to females at all age groups. Oral commissure is smallest amongst Indian males and females at all age groups compared to Caucasians and blacks. Adult male and female blacks have wide oral commissure compared to Caucasians and blacks. Dome height is more in Indian adult males compared to females. The data was not available for Caucasians and blacks for comparison. Indian males and females differ significantly in certain parameters from that of Caucasians and blacks but shows resemblance to Chinese. For years together the anthropometric measurements for surgical reconstructions are based on basic values for western population

resulting in the time of surgical repair being based on western growth patterns, which actually differs for Indians. This has not been given a serious thought. Our study has been conducted to generate Indian data.

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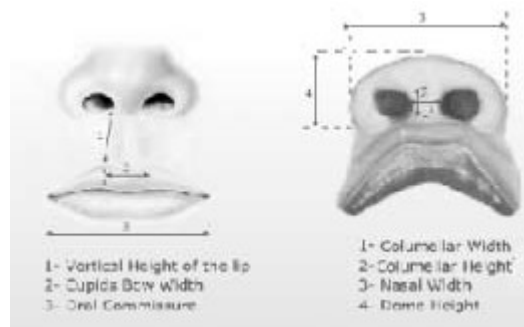


Fig. 1 Diagram showing the details of measurements of the present study

Table 1 Comparison of nasolabial morphometry among males (n=44) and females (n=56)

values in cm	male	female
vertical lip height*	12.9 ± 2.2	10.5 ± 2.2
cupids bow width*	11.5 ± 2.1	10 ± 1.5
total width of the mouth*	52 ± 7.1	48.7 ± 6.9
columellar height*	10.9 ± 2.5	8.8 ± 2.4
columellar width	8.1 ± 1	8.1 ± 1.1
nasal width	32.1 ± 3.1	31.6 ± 3.7
dome height	18 ± 6.8	18.2 ± 3

values are mean ± SD, statistical significance (independent t-test) *p<0.05

Table 2 Showing the racial variability of the parameters among various populations

values in cm	Present study (Indian)		West Indian		Chinese		Caucasians		Blacks		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
vertical lip height*	12.9	10.5	16.2	14.2	16	13	22	15	21	21	
cupids bow width*	11.5	10	11.7	11.8	12	11	15	13	12	13	
total width of the mouth*	52	48.7	53.5	47	56	53	63	57	72	57	
columellar height*	10.9	8.8	9.8	8.6	6	5	13	11	10	9	
columellar width	8.1	8.1	5.7	5.7	6	7	8	6	9	7	
nasal width	32.1	31.6	32.3	30.5	43	39	36	33	44	45	
dome height	18	18.2	20.4	16.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	