

Lips, Teeth, Chin, and Smile Analysis: Preferred Terms

Black Triangle – the presence of a dark and unaesthetic triangular space, base up, between the two upper central incisors due to midline gingival retraction and/or dental inclination.

Buccal Corridors (Negative Space) – The space that is created when a patient smiles, between the buccal (vestibular) surface of the posterior teeth and the commissure of the lips. The perceived dimension of this space depends partially on the type of lighting utilized during assessment and photographic session.

Chin Pad – The thick soft tissue overlying the bony chin.

Dental Agenesis – The lack of development of one or more teeth.

Dental Crowding – The lack of alignment between adjacent teeth. It is usually graded from mild to severe crowding.

Display Zone – The area framed by the lips during the act of smiling.

E-Line (Esthetic Line) – A references line connecting the tip of the nose to the most anterior point of the chin contour (soft-tissue Pogonion).

Gingival Scaffold – The area of gingival shown during the act of smiling.

Lips Commissure – The point in which the upper and lower lips join together. During the act of smiling, the eye of the observer can perceived the **inner** and the **outer commissures**, as delineated by the innermost and outermost confluences, respectively, of the vermillion of the lips at the corner of the mouth.

Dental Classes – the classification of sagittal relationship between the dental arches.

Class I: normal postero-anterior relationship between the two dental arches. **Class II:** too anterior upper dental arch and/or too posterior lower dental arch. **Class III:** too posterior upper dental arch and/or too anterior lower dental arch.

Cleft Chin – the median depressed vertical skin line of the chin pad characterizing some subjects.

Crossbite – When one or more maxillary teeth are linguallly (internal) positioned relative to the respective mandibular teeth. The anterior crossbite is also called reverse overjet.

Cupid's bow – The central linear portion of the Upper Lip White Roll skin relief of the upper lip between the Philtrum and the vermillion. It connects the inferior ends of the Philtrum Columns.

Diastema – A space between adjacent teeth. Normally there is no space between adjacent teeth.

Labial commissure – The point of lateral confluence of the lips. During the act of smiling it consists of the inner and the outer commissure.

Labiomental Fold (Mandibular sulcus contour) – the horizontal skin depression that separates the chin from the lower lip. It varies from a flat curve to a deep sulcus.

Li (Labrale Inferior) – The median point in the lower margin of the lower membranous lip in profile view.

Lip White Rolls – The linear white skin relief placed around the vermillion border of both lips. It flattens and sometimes totally disappears with ageing.

Ls (Labrale Superior) – A point indicating the mucocutaneous border of the upper lip in the profile view. It is the most anterior point of the upper lip (usually).

Mouth Width – The distance between the two lip commissures; it is measured utilizing the close-up view of the lip at rest with ruler. It is not modifiable with surgery. The mean value, reported by Farkas [1], measured in a group of attractive young North American Caucasian adults is 53.9 millimeters in male subjects and 50.9 millimeters in female subjects.

Overbite – The vertical overlap of the incisors obtained when the two dental arches occlude together. **Deep Bite** – Excessive vertical overlap between upper and lower incisors.

Open Bite – In this condition there is no overlap but a vertical separation.

Overjet – The horizontal overlap of the upper incisors in front of the lower incisors. Normally it is 2-3 mm due to the thickness of the upper incisors edge; the **Increased Overjet** is the excessive horizontal distance between the upper and lower incisors.

Reverse Overjet (Anterior Crossbite) – If the lower incisors are in front of the upper incisors.

Philtrum – The central and vertically oriented portion of the upper lip situated between the two skin reliefs of the **Philtrum Columns**. There is a gentle concavity on its lower portion, the **Philtrum Dimple**.

Pog (pogonion) – The most prominent or anterior point on the chin bony profile [6].

Pog_s (soft-tissue pogonion) – The most prominent or anterior point on the chin pad profile.

Pointed chin deformity – The combination of a reduced width with an increased antero-inferior projection of the chin.

Posed Smile – A voluntary smile; it need not be elicited or accompanied by emotion. A posed smile can be sustained and it is reliably repeatable.

Smile Arc – The relationship of the curvature of the incisal edges of maxillary incisors and canine to the curvature of the lower lip in the posed smile.

Stomion – The point of contact between the two lips in profile view. In the case where contact between the lips is absent, the **Stomion Superior** can be considered to be the lower most point of the vermillion of the upper lip, and the **Stomion Inferior** to be the upper most point of the vermillion of the lower lip.

Supernumerary Tooth – The presence of an extra tooth over the normal teeth number.

Unposed (Spontaneous) Smile – An involuntary smile, induced by joy or mirth. An unposed smile cannot be sustained (it is dynamic).

Vermillion – The red portion of the external surface of the lips.

Witch's Chin Deformity (Ptotic Chin) – the flattening and the ptosis of the chin pad associated with the deepening of the submental crease. It can be age related or secondary to previous surgery.

1. Farkas LG: Anthropometry of the attractive North American Caucasian face. In: Farkas LG: Anthropometry of the head and face (second edition). New York: Raven Press, 1994. Pag. 159.