



Preface Aesthetic analysis



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Guest Editor

The premise of this issue of the *Facial Plastic Surgery Clinics of North America* differs substantially from the typical issue devoted to the evaluation of surgical techniques and their selection and implementation.

It is my strong belief that an absolutely accurate and thorough analysis and diagnosis of the nuances of a patient's problem is essential for an ideal outcome, and that without this experienced preoperative evaluation, a happy outcome based on implementation of the appropriate technique is unlikely.

I have asked the contributing authors for this issue to prepare their articles with this canon in mind, placing less emphasis on the details of the surgical techniques to be employed or selected and major emphasis on the small but vital details of how their individual experience in proper evaluation allows facial plastic surgeons to precisely perceive and diagnose common and uncommon problems in different aspects of the specialty. The details are important here; the authors' in-depth discussions of the "little things" can have a major positive influence on the selection of the appropriate surgical technique based entirely on a penetrating diagnosis and evaluation of the individual patient's anatomy and surgical requirement.

Guidelines were issued to each contributing author as a challenge: "Discussion of your preferred techniques is useful, but the primary emphasis should be focused on the analytic details which led you to employ that technique. (For example, unless the diagnosis of an underprojected nasal tip is recognized, establishing satisfactory tip projection probably will not be accomplished as a part of the operative game plan. Similarly, failure to diagnose a subtle unilateral eyelid ptosis can lead to an unacceptable outcome to aesthetic blepharoplasty. Inaccurate diagnosis of a deep cavum concha in otoplasty will surely lead to a less-than-satisfactory correction.)"

The contributors to this issue have responded with thoughtful evaluations of their personal approaches to analysis and diagnosis, which should prove valuable to experienced and neophyte surgeons alike.

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