

P R E S E N T I N G T H I S I S S U E

Foreword

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Editor-in-chief of this Issue



If esthetics is defined etymologically as the science of sensitivity, the broader definition of the term encompasses the philosophical study of perceptions, emotions and beauty, whether it be in nature or expressed in artistic creation.

We are all morphologists and we now know that our various procedures can have an impact on the appearance of the face particularly because any dentofacial orthopedic treatment can profoundly disrupt the fundamental parameters that determine how beauty is perceived.

Logically it seems an opportune time for us to present an overview and to appropriately revisit these parameters that can evolve conceptually from one era to the next.

However, if we give free rein to our esthetic sensibilities, does it not allow us to perceive some semblance of the beauty of the soul that emanates from a look or a smile?

Christine MULLER is interested in the dental esthetics of older patients and especially problems concerning the lower anterior teeth where crowding gives rise to many requests for treatment. Since this sector only becomes more conspicuous with advanced age, the orthodontist needs some simple and very useful information in order to assess and meet the demands of the patient in addition to the clinical examination and the medical history.

Catherine GALLETTI examines the issue of how to respond to patients with extensive demands, patients whose requests sometimes become confusing at the end of treatment when we feel that they are still not completely satisfied. After reviewing the anatomical variations of the six lower anterior teeth of the smile and the advantages of enameloplasty, Catherine GALLETTI goes into detail for us about the original method of previsualization that is done before

reconturing the enamel edges of front teeth.

Given the truly subjective nature of esthetic requests, it seems to us to be important to raise the psychological issues involved in these requests. We gave Franck BENKIMOUN the task of giving the specifics of each orthodontic age, deciduous, mixed, adolescent and adult dentition so as to not “fall into the trap” of agreeing to an unrealistic request that might even be dangerous. Franck BENKIMOUN describes in detail “high-risk patients” in order to make us more keenly vigilant and also gives us some key strategies for getting out of difficult situations.

But where does the shape come from? Jacques TALMANT and Joël DENIAUD share the fruit of their unique experience dealing with the

functional processes that determine oronasal morphogenesis. Their very thorough description of interactions between container-contents makes it possible to measure all the subtleties of oronasal biomechanics and to grasp the role of each element in the morphogenesis of the whole. The maxim of René Dubois “Think Globally, Act Locally” perfectly summarizes the thinking of the authors.

Finally, we will once again present our usual feature, *Clinical Cases*.

The contents above demonstrably prove that we really did need a second issue dedicated to this theme given how frequent “esthetic enhancement requests” have become during our consultations with patients. Therefore, we hope that we have objectively given our readers a better understanding of a very subjective topic.