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ASSESSMENT OF PINK AND WHITE AESTHETIC SCORES AMONG SOUTH INDIAN POPULATION

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ABSTRACT

The aesthetic demands of patients are elevated in recent days, especially in visible areas such as the anterior region. According to the literature various indices were proposed to evaluate aesthetics in the hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity. Two such indices are the pink aesthetic score (PES) and white aesthetic score (WES). So using these indices, the anterior aesthetic scores were determined among the south Indian population. This cross-sectional study was performed by photographic analysis. A total of 25 subjects and 75 sites. Using the PES/WES by direct comparison with the contralateral reference teeth the results were tabulated. The PES and WES was clearly higher than the average acceptable values. The mean PES (11.33) and mean WES (8.1) scored well above the threshold of 8 for PES and 6 for WES. Dentists and dental technicians must take these scores into account before restoring teeth in order to improve aesthetics among the south Indian population.

INTRODUCTION

A major outlook of dentistry in modern days is to have the placement of pleasant and aesthetic restorations which resemble the natural tooth structure especially in the anterior region ¹. For this we must take into consideration the various factors that affect the aesthetics such as shade, shape, size, etc. of the restoration. Orofacial aesthetics is based on the agreement of both smile and smile lines as well as the face ². The aesthetic demands of patients are raised up in recent days, especially in visible areas such as the anterior region ³. According to the literature and numerous research articles a variety of indices

were put forth to evaluate aesthetics in the hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity. Two such indices are the pink aesthetic score (PES) and white aesthetic score (WES). These were proposed by Furhauser et.al and Belser et.al respectively. So using these indices, the anterior aesthetic scores were determined among the south Indian population. Technological progresses have taken place in response to the mounting demands of the patients for aesthetic dental treatment and the consequential mandate of the clinicians or dental professionals for dental and restorative materials with similar optical features to that of the natural human teeth ⁴. In order to attain aesthetic distinction, dentists and dental technicians should comprehend and relate scientific and artistic principles when deciding on the color of restorative material, consistency at which it will be more aesthetically pleasing as well as during the insertion of the restorative material such as composite resin ^{5,6}.

Normally, when handling the aesthetic demands of the patient, dentists mostly focus on the tooth (the white part of aesthetic score) and disregard the gingiva and surrounding soft tissues (the pink part of aesthetic score). Thus far, both these facets need to be taken care of to provide the superlative aesthetic treatment outcome and to right what is either present naturally in the oral cavity or occurred as a result of wear, tear and erosion over the years ⁷. Many at times, the pink component or soft tissue component is absent due to widespread gingival and periodontal surgical procedures, trauma, resorption, traumatic extractions, or trauma from occlusion (TFO) ⁵⁻⁸. Furhauser et al. introduced an excellent index termed the Pink Esthetic Score (PES) for evaluation of the soft tissue around single-implant crowns that might have changed over time. The PES might be a valuable device for observing soft tissue modifications over a long period of time ⁹. Belser et al. have later introduced the White Esthetic Score (WES) to explicitly focus on the visible portion of the tooth structure itself ¹⁰. Numerous studies have reported that the PES/WES scoring system can assist as a typical objective assessment tool ¹¹. However a great emptiness has been observed in clinical ranking and rating approaches to perception of the patient of implant restorations ¹². Therefore, a combination of subjective and objective evaluation of the esthetic product is essential for patients receiving dental restorations and implants in the aesthetic zone ¹³. Despite the common use of various indices for the aesthetic evaluation of implants and implant supported prosthesis in the anterior tooth region, there is no unanimously accepted or suggested index available in the current literature and research articles ¹⁴. Aesthetic indices must be reliable and reproducible. According to the original papers for PES/WES it was found that they met the standards of validity, reproducibility and reliability ¹⁵. Therefore we chose these indexes for this study.

PES is based on seven variables: mesial papilla, distal papilla, soft-tissue level, soft-tissue contour, alveolar process deficiency, soft-tissue color, and texture. WES is based on five variables: tooth form, outline and volume, color (hue and value), surface texture and translucency and characterization. Each variable is assessed with a 2-1-0 score, with 2 being the best and 0 being the poorest score, which results in a maximum possible score of 14 for PES and 10 for WES. The aim of this study was to assess the pink and white aesthetic scores among the south Indian population.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross-sectional study was performed by photographic analysis. A total of 25 subjects and 75 sites (the right incisor, lateral incisor and canine) (3 sites per patient) were included. Using the PES/WES by direct comparison with the contralateral reference teeth. The subjects for this study were selected at random at Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Vellapanchavadi, Chennai. Intra oral frontal pictures were taken and assessed with the consent of the patient. The photographs were compiled and the results acquired were tabulated and put into the form of charts.

	0	1	2
1: Mesial papilla	Absent	Incomplete	Complete
2: Distal papilla	Absent	Incomplete	Complete
3: Level of soft-tissue margin	>2 mm	1-2 mm	1< mm
4: Soft-tissue contour	Unnatural	Fairly natural	Natural
5: Alveolar process	Obvious	Slight	None
6: Soft-tissue color	Obvious difference	Moderate difference	No difference
7: Soft-tissue texture	Obvious difference	Moderate difference	No difference
Maximum Score: 14			

Figure 1 Pink Aesthetic Score (PES)

	Major Discrepancy	Minor Discrepancy	No Discrepancy
1: Tooth Form	0	1	2
2: Outline & Volume	0	1	2
3: Color (hue & value)	0	1	2
4: Surface Texture	0	1	2
5: Translucency & Characterization	0	1	2
Maximum Score: 10			

Figure 2 White Aesthetic Score (WES)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

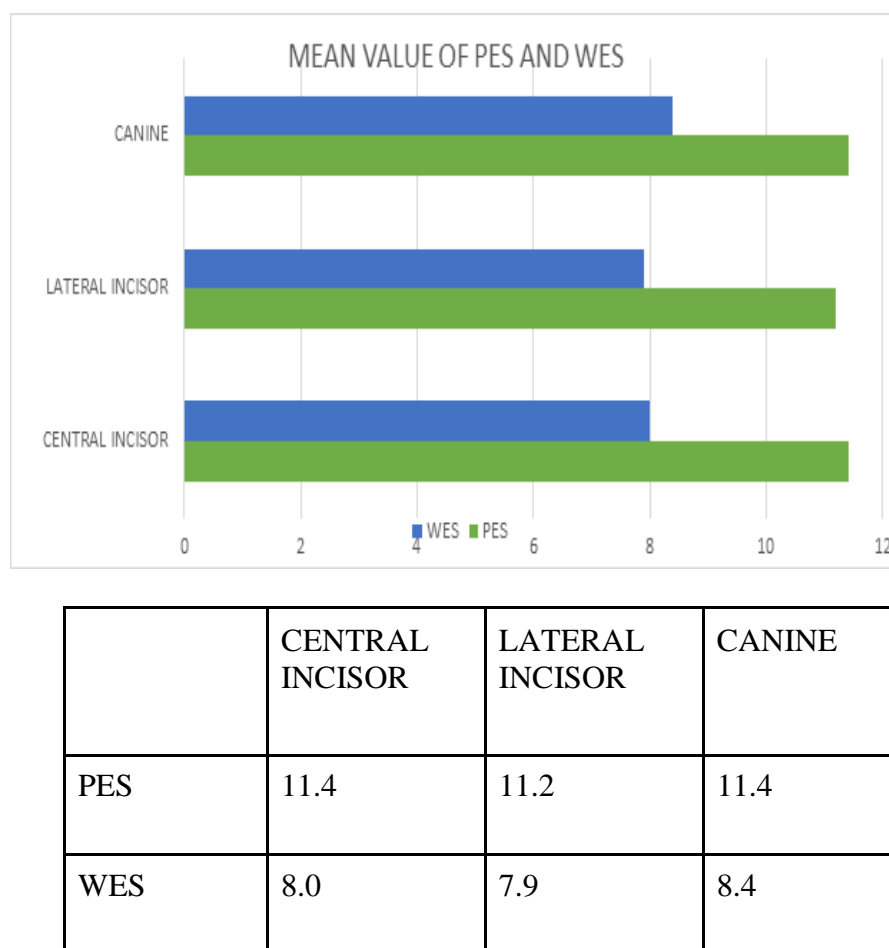


Figure 3 (a) and (b) Mean value of PES and WES

Once the results were analyzed and tabulated, the mean total PES/WES was 9.50 for central incisor, 9.55 for lateral incisor and 9.9 for the canine. The overall mean PES was 11.33. Mean PES was 11.4 for central incisor, 11.2 for lateral incisor and 11.4 for the canine. Overall mean WES was 8.1. Mean WES was 8.0 for central incisor, 7.9 for lateral incisor, 8.4 for the canine. The PES and WES was clearly higher than the average acceptable values. The mean PES (11.33) and mean WES (8.1) scored well above the threshold of 8 for PES and 6 for WES.

In a recent study it was found that the PES/WES index is a suitable instrument for evaluating the esthetics around single-implant and other anterior restorations. The PES/WES index could also provide a more unbiased understanding into aesthetic results in the day to day dental practice. Moreover, the index could be a very useful instrument in scientific research and methodology¹⁶. Objectively, the aesthetic zone was defined as any dento-alveolar segment that is visible upon a complete smile. According to the perspective of the patient, the aesthetic zone can be defined as any dento-alveolar area which is of aesthetic importance to the patient¹⁷. It is very

essential to distinguish patients who have impractical aesthetic demands. Due to the reason of the intricacy of working with hard and soft tissues in restorative and implant dentistry, it can be problematic to constantly achieve good aesthetic results, therefore, throughout the consultation or during the appointment, it is fitting to discreetly assess the patient's smile line and lip movement during speech and other movements¹⁸. It is also essential to explain to such patients the reasons for why such a restoration is not possible. More notably, when scheduling restorations in the aesthetic zone of the patient, the clinician must apply other indexes such as the Esthetic Risk Assessment to inform the patient on the risks of attaining an esthetic outcome¹⁹. One more hurdle to overcome will be broadly and esthetically re-establishing the hard and soft tissue contours once it is lost²⁰. Re-establishing contours is both technically difficult and time consuming. Although these indices have good reproducibility and validity, nevertheless, the results from other studies showed that these indices yielded a lack of correlation between dentists as it was subjective. Lack of standardization in the assessment of pink and white aesthetic scores brought about inconsistencies. These inconsistencies depended on the dentist or a dental professional's experience and area of expertise in the field of dentistry, which clearly endangers the final outcome when assessing aesthetics²¹. Likewise, longer follow-ups are required to thoroughly assess the exactness of PES/WES changes over time to predict any differences. Moreover, if confirmed by further research, PES/WES indices may gain ground in the day to day clinical practice to observe long-term changes of anterior restorations and the aesthetics of soft tissues^{22,23}. The aesthetic zone might also differ from patient to patient, some of them might have a narrow aesthetic zone while others might possess a wide aesthetic zone. This will also determine the extent to which the final restoration must be designed in order to achieve improved aesthetics²⁴. One more complication that may be associated with prosthesis that requires the rehabilitation of lost soft tissue is the need for strict hygiene maintenance by the patient²⁵. A recent study showed that the lip form of the patient also influences the aesthetics as it determines the amount of gingiva exposed²⁶. Some of such vital parameters have been left out of the PES and WES which proves to be a limitation. Future studies using these indices could bring about modifications which will create an index close to 'ideal'.

It is known that when talking about the esthetics of the smile, premolars should also be involved. However, the present study evaluated only the central incisors, lateral incisors and the canines. This study has limitations due to the number of patients and sites observed and also due to the variety of dental conditions that people presented with especially in the anterior tooth region. This study was also a uni-centered study. Therefore, further studies encompassing a larger number of patients from different dental clinics, hospitals and institutions across the world could help in identifying objective methods of measurement in order to assess esthetic quality and providing gold standard aesthetic treatment and restorations.

CONCLUSION

The average level of natural teeth in PES and WES assessment were around 11 and 8, respectively. Some of the patients with neglected periodontal conditions had poor PES and WES. Few of the patients had poorly made anterior restorations which affected the aesthetic score. Consistent dental checkups, oral hygiene maintenance, early periodontal therapy or restorative therapy and early prosthetic rehabilitation can have an impact on aesthetic score.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

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