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POINT OF VIEW

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CHARACTERISTICS OF PSYCHO-EMOTIONAL STATE OF PATIENTS REQUIRING PLASTIC SURGERY

The results of psychoemotional state assessment of patients who consulted a plastic surgeon con-cerning aesthetic operations in the maxillofacial region (MF) (ear, nose, blepharoplasty, facelift, etc.) are presented. The work evaluated their personality characteristics, which influence the deci-sion-making for aesthetic operation.

The **aim** of the research is to identify the characteristics of psychoemotional tension in patients who applied to a plastic surgeon for aesthetic operations.

Materials and methods. 145 patients who consulted a plastic surgeon for aesthetic surgery of the face and neck were surveyed. The research was done at Chita State Medical Academy Clinic of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation.

Results. The article presents the data concerning the peculiarities of such patients' appearance perception, estimation and pretensions level. The main directions of their psychological support before the aesthetic surgery with the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the performed cos-metic intervention are considered. Meanwhile, inflammatory and oncological diseases of the face cause the highest situational and personal anxiety, while the general level of anxiety is the lowest among the patients dissatisfied with their appearance. At the same time, a close connection of emotional, characterological and behavioral reactions with a person's appearance caused by con-genital and acquired facial defects and deformations was determined.



Discussion. Dominance, self neglet, and friendliness predominate in personality traits, and the level of situational and personality anxiety is defined as average, which predetermines to refer such patients to the risk group. However, at the same time, psychopathological disorders (dys-morphomanic syndrome, neurosis-like disorders, and psychopathies) were found to be signifi-cantly rare in the examined individuals. In such situations, dysmorphophobia should be excluded, the likelihood of which increases in individuals who claim to have surgery in atypical areas, re-peated surgical interventions, etc.

Conclusion. This research determined that the risk factors for developing a mental disorder for aesthetic surgery patients are: more often female sex, lack of marital relationships, chronic psy-chotraumatic situation, long-term and ineffective surgical treatment, psychiatric disorders in the past, low level of meaningfulness in life, etc. It was established that most of the patients applied for elimination of cosmetic defects by clinical and aesthetical causes. In this regard, the participa-tion of a psychologist and psychiatrist is essential in deciding the appropriateness of cosmetic surgery as well as in conducting psychotherapeutic preparation of patients for surgery.

Keywords: aesthetic surgery, situational and personality anxiety, psychoemotional state, maxillo-facial area, psychological support.

Introduction. Dissatisfaction with one's appearance affects significantly the psychological and emotional state of a person, his character and social adaptation, psychological vulnerability, resentfulness, irritability, etc. Often patients try to eliminate this dissatisfaction and psychological problems with plastic surgery [1, 2, 10]. Meanwhile, it should be noted that their decision of cosmetic surgery is not always a conscious one.

Plastic surgeries usually result in a rapid and lasting improvement of a person's appearance, which contributes to self-esteem changes and social significance increase [11]. However, aesthetic surgeries are not indicated for people with mental illnesses (delusions, dysmorphobia, etc.), which requires a prior psychiatric examination [3, 2]. Sometimes, psychoemotional tension of various degree (PET) is detected in such patients at psychiatric pathology absence [6, 9]. It affects the patient's preparation for surgical intervention, the course of the postoperative period, and the assessment of the quality of surgical results [4, 5]. PET manifests as addictive behavior, characterized by a desire to change one's appearance by surgical procedures, distorted perception, and pathological dissatisfaction with one's face. It develops on the basis of insecurity, low self-esteem, distorted perceptions of one's own appearance and beauty ideals, and requires surgery with no obvious defects [7]. PET is assessed by a psychiatrist, psychologist, and plastic surgeon during an initial consultative interview with the patient. Treatment includes cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy, participation in support groups, and medication correction [8]. In

view of the above, we chose the direction for our research.

The objective of the research is to reveal peculiarities of psycho-emotional tension in people who have undergone aesthetic surgeries to the plastic suraeon.

Materials and methods of the research. The study involved 145 patients who consulted a plastic surgeon about aesthetic operations on the face and neck. The study was conducted at the clinic of Chita State Medical Academy of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation. To achieve the goal of the study we determined the dominating motives, personal features, and anxiety level of the reconstructive and plastic surgery patients that will help to expand the knowledge on their psychosocial peculiarities, determine the risk groups for the development of mental disorders and specify the algorithms of PET correction. Patients who had consulted a plastic surgeon were examined and questioned. Cosmetic defects in 79 patients (54.5%: χ^2 =11,10; p=0,02) were explained by the consequences of trauma, inflammatory and oncologic diseases; the rest patients

had age-related changes of the face or were not satisfied with their own appearance. All examined patients were: women - 82.0% (χ^2 =6,10; p=0,03), men - 18%, the age varied from 17 to 61 years old and older (under 20 years old -13 (9%), 21-40 years old - 73 (59%), 41-60 years old - 39 (27%), over 61 years old - 20 (13.8%) (Table 1.).

There were anonymous questionnaires that contained questions about age, gender, education, profession, marital status, reasons for going to a plastic surgeon, etc. R.Cattell's multifactorial questionnaire, Leary's questionnaire, and Spielberger's test were used to determine personal situational anxiety.

The study was conducted with the ethical principles of scientific medical research involving human subjects, as defined by the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association (1964, ed. 2000), and the requirements of the regulatory documents of the Russian Federation on clinical trials. All patients gave voluntary informational consent to conduct the research.

The obtained data were processed

Table 1

Distribution of patients by sex and age

Sex		Age			
Males	Females	Under 20 years old	21-40 years old	41- 60 years old	From 61 years old and older
26 (17.93%) p=0.02	119 (82.06%) p=0.03	13 (9%) p=0.02	73 (59%) p=0.001	39 (27%) p=0.01	20 (13.8%) p=0.02

Table 2

Distribution of patients according to the degree of psycho-emotional instability depending on the cause of defects and deformations in the maxillofacial region (TM)

Etiological factor	Degree of psycho-emotional instability				
Patients with the face trauma consequences	Significant prevalence of emotional instability (χ2 =49.09; p=0.0001)				
Patients with cancerous defects of the craniofacial cavity	Significant prevalence of emotional intemperance with low ability to predict the consequences of their actions (82.3%; $\chi 2$ =21.10; p=0.002)				
Individuals with age-related changes	Moderate psycho-emotional instability (χ2 =15.40; p=0.0001)				

using Statistica 6.0 statistical analysis program (Stat Soft, USA). We used Pearson's $\chi 2$ test to estimate the significance of differences (p) to compare relative values. Starting with a p-value equal to or less than 0.05, the differences were assessed as significant.

Results and Discussion. According to the data obtained, aesthetic surgery patients often had PET, but they rarely consulted a psychiatrist or psychologist. Meanwhile, they were diagnosed with psychopathology, more often of neurotic level, consequences of severe stress and reactive states, depression, superficial sleep, dysmorphophobia, personality disorder, etc. Thus, the intellectual and emotional-volitional features, communicative properties and types of interpersonal interaction in the majority of observations were at the level of average values and were within the norm according to R. Cattell's multifactorial questionnaire during the study of personality characteristics. At the same time, the study of personal characteristics revealed a significant prevalence of emotional instability in patients with the trauma consequences ($\chi^2 = 49,09$; p=0,0001), and the signs of emotional intemperance with low ability to predict the consequences of their actions were markedly dominant in those with cancer consequences (82.3%; χ 2 = 21.10; p=0.002) (Table 2). At the same time, people who wanted to look younger showed signs of increased trustworthiness, inner relaxation, ability to get along with people, and lowered self-esteem.

The data from the Leary's questionnaire indicated that unselfishness and friendliness were the leading features in most of the patients (84,9%; χ^2 =22,7; p=0,001). At the same time, dominance in interpersonal relationships, assertiveness, and aggressiveness (65,7%, χ^2 =17,10; p=0,002) prevailed in patients with the consequences of facial injuries, and unselfishness and increased submissiveness (χ^2 =1,81; p=0,06) prevailed in those with the consequences of cancer.

Spielberger's questionnaire assessment revealed that the level of situational anxiety did not exceed average values in the overall group of patients, while the level of personal anxiety was slightly above average (χ^2 =14,41, p= 0,036). Patients with the facial trauma consequences had a lower level of situational anxiety than the level of personal anxiety. The level of situational anxiety exceeded the level

of personal anxiety in patients with the consequences of oncological diseases. The level of personal anxiety significantly exceeded the level of situational anxiety in the group of patients dissatisfied with their appearance.

Almost half of the patents were single (72), 20 were divorced (13.8%), 46 (32%) were married or married, and 7 (4.8%) were widowed. Among those who responded 4.8% had incomplete secondary education, 54.4% had specialized secondary education, 13.8% had secondary education, and 27% had higher education.

Consequently, it can be noted that inflammatory and oncological diseases of the face cause the highest situational and personal anxiety, while patients dissatisfied with their appearance have the lowest general level of anxiety.

On the whole, the study of the patients' personality features convincingly shows a close connection of emotional, characteristic and behavioral reactions with human appearance due to congenital and acquired facial defects and deformities. Dominance, unselfishness and friendliness dominate in their personal features, and the level of situational and personal anxiety is defined as average. Such patients should be classified as a risk group for PET. At the same time, psychopathological disorders (dysmorphomanic syndrome, neurosis-like disorders, psychopathies) were rarely revealed in the examined patients. However, dvsmorphophobia should be excluded in them, the probability of which increases in those who pretend to operate in atypical areas, repeated surgical interventions, etc. Risk factors for psychiatric disorders for aesthetic surgery patients are: more often female sex, absence of marital relations, chronic psychotraumatic situation, longterm and ineffective surgical treatment, psychiatric disorders in the past, low level of meaning in life, etc.

Conclusion. The majority of patients appealed for cosmetic defects correction due to evidently justified indications. Meanwhile, the definition of indications for plastic surgery is one of the most important stages in the plastic surgeon's activity. To some extent, it depends on the individual and psychological characteristics knowledge of those who consulted a surgeon. That's why the participation of a psychologist and psychiatrist is essential when deciding on the advisability of cosmetic surgery, as well as for psychotherapeutic preparation of patients for surgery.

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