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Anatomy of the muscles of facial expression in aesthetic medicine

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This study aimed to understand the anatomy of facial muscles which is intricate and vital for the aesthetic medical practitioner in the practice of cosmetic dermatology. Such study can be performed through cadaveric dissection or through study of virtual anatomy. These muscles of facial expression are located in the subcutaneous tissue and originate from bone or fascia, where they are inserted onto the skin. The muscles of facial expression are found to be broadly being split into three groups: Orbital, nasal and oral. Orbital group of muscles is associated with 2 muscles arising from the eye socket; they are orbicularis oculi and corrugator supercilii located posterior to the orbicularis supercilii. The nasal group of facial muscles is associated with movements of the nose and the skin around it. They are the nasalis, the largest of the nasal muscles. Procerus is the most superior part of the nasal muscles. Depressor septi nasi assists the alar part of the nasalis. Next is the oral group of muscles which play an important role in facial expression and are responsible for the movements of the mouth and lips. They are the orbicularis oris and the buccinator. There are also other oral muscles acting on the lips and mouth, they are the lower group comprising of the depressor anguli oris, depressor labii inferioris. The upper group contains the risorius, zygomaticus major, zygomaticus minor, levator labii superioris, levator labii superioris alaeque nasi and levator anguli oris. Profound knowledge of the facial anatomy and their action will enhance the proficiency of the aesthetic physician in their application of aesthetic procedures.

Biography

Chandran Rajagopal has completed his Graduation from the Madras Medical College, University of Madras in 1972. After his Graduation from MMC, he served in the Malaysian Health Service in the fields of Psychiatry and General Surgery. He continued his training in Dermatological Surgery in US with the American Academy of Aesthetic and Restorative Surgery in New Orleans, Louisiana under Professor George Farber and became a Fellow of the Academy and later as an International Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatologists.

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