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Harmony and facial attractiveness: Is golden number yet usable?

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Objective: Since antiquity, philosophy, painting and classical architecture were marked by the search for perfect proportions and magic numbers. The number ($\zeta = 1.618$), called Golden Number (The Golden Mean, The Phi Ratio The Fibonacci Ratio, The Divine Ratio, The Golden Section), is one of those. This number can be traced in the Greek temple in the great Pyramid of Egypt, in the wild and even in the human body defining a certain harmony and beauty. A literature review was performed to analyse facial harmony criteria proposed in the literature.

Material and methods: A systematic search of Pub Med Database between January 2003 and January 2013 was performed. Keywords searched included: « golden number, facial harmony, Facial attractiveness, Facial proportion, Golden ratios, and neoclassical cannons. The level of evidence (LOE) was ranked for each article on a scale from 1 to 5. Measured variables in this review included publishing specialty journal, the type of study, year of publication, study population and criteria of facial harmony proposed.

Results: 52 articles remained after duplicate and unrelated citations were removed. These papers included 43 retrospective reviews, 1 Meta-analyze and 8 expert opinions. Orthodontic journals published 31 articles, Oral and maxillofacial surgery journals have published 8 articles and informatics journals published 7 articles. The populations studied were mostly Caucasian or Asian, respectively (35%) and (25%).

Conclusion: The golden ratio is still valid and artificial intelligence is the future. Many mathematical models for attractive faces have been proposed in the literature. But the artistic sense of the surgeon remains, nevertheless, a fundamental element in facial cosmetic surgery.

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