The Square Chin and the Pointed Chin: Another Refinement in Facial Aesthetics

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Abstract. The authors present a simple surgical procedure for changing a pointed chin into a square one, through the resectioning of a horizontal bone fragment of the free edge of the mentum. An amount of soft tissue of this region can be resected during surgery as a secondary reshaping maneuver. A third technical detail can be added to improve the final result, using a small bone resection wedge in the middle of the mentum edge. A lazy groove on the new square chin line is obtained. A comparative, preoperative and postoperative study of the face contour is presented.

The classical lines of the face have been studied by artists of all schools of art, from the most ancient to the most contemporary, to exalt the concept of beauty.

Plastic surgeons, dedicated to facial aesthetics, base their studies and their work on that of classical sculptors and painters who were devoted to the study of the parameters of the proportions of the face so that a perfect aesthetical balance can be obtained through sophisticated surgical methods.

Converse et al. [2], Tessier [7], Gonzalez-Ulloa [3, 4], Gonzalez-Ulloa and Stevens [5], and Cachay Velasques [1] have contributed effectively to the study of profile correction, using the projection lines, angles, and proportions of levels of the face in their corrective surgery.

Jabaley and Edgerton [6], Converse et al. [2] Tessier [7], and many others used specific osteotomies on the facial bone structure to move segments of the upper, middle, or lower face forward, thus establishing profile balance.

Transversal osteotomies with resections or bone grafting of segments in the lower or middle level of the face have also achieved compensating effects which improve the facial contours of the patients.

Profile correction is now a routine procedure for plastic surgeons who wish to restructure the projection of the chin and the nose, setting them in line with
Fig. 1. A typical example of the predominance of the lower level of the face without associated prognathism. The chin has a pointed and unaesthetic line

the other profile points, thus creating harmony of contour. This work extends from classical profile correction (profileplasty) and mentoplasty with insertion of haloplastic material to complex osteotomies for congenital deformities or deformities acquired traumatically.

Within the study of aesthetic facial surgery (profileplasty) there is a type of deformity whose degree varies in certain limits, permitting surgery on a small scale, thus giving balance to the face. This is the pointed chin.

**Pointed Chin**

Careful examination of the profile and contour of the face in a certain number of patients reveals the pointed mentum which is always pronounced in prognathism although it can also be found without this deformity. The lower level of the face is greater in length than the middle or upper level, calling attention to a strange facial detail which is easily noticed and recognized by the trained eyes of a physiognomist.

Photographic tracings of these patients show the lack of aesthetic balance due to the predominance and aggressiveness of the chin. The problem becomes more serious when associated with an unshapely nose, thus forming two negative points in the patient's facial makeup.

On examination of the three levels of the face, it is easy to accept greater height in the lower level than in the other levels or a certain balance given to the upper level by the hairline.

Generally, these patients have a short nose, with or without a hump (Fig. 1).