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(January 2009)[< Previous Article](#)[Volume 79, Issue 1 \(January 2009\)](#)[Next Article >](#)
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Original Articles

Self-Concept and the Perception of Facial Appearance in Children and Adolescents Seeking Orthodontic Treatment

Ceib Phillips^a and Kimberly N. Edwards Beal^b

Abstract

Objective: To examine, in adolescents with mild to moderate malocclusion, the relationship between self-concept and demographic characteristics, a clinical assessment of malocclusion, self-perception of malocclusion, and self-perception of facial attractiveness.

Methods and Materials: Fifty-nine consecutive patients ages 9 to 15 years scheduled for initial records in a graduate orthodontic clinic consented to participate. Each subject independently completed the Multidimensional Self-Concept Scale (MSCS), the Facial Image Scale, and the Index of Treatment Need–Aesthetic Component (IOTN-AC). Peer Assessment Rating (PAR) scores were obtained from the patients' diagnostic dental casts. Forward multiple-regression analysis with a backward overlook was used to analyze the effect of the demographic, clinical, and self-perception measures on each of the six self-concept (MSCS) domains.

Results: Self-perception of the dentofacial region was the only statistically significant predictor ($P < .05$) for the Global, Competence, Affect, Academic, and Physical domains of self-concept, while age, parental marital status, and the adolescent's self-perception of the dentofacial region were statistically significant predictors ($P < .05$) of Social Self-Concept.

Conclusion: The self-perceived level of the attractiveness or "positive" feelings toward the dentofacial region is more strongly related to self-concept than the severity of the malocclusion as indicated by the PAR score or by the adolescent's perception of their malocclusion.

Keywords: [Adolescents](#), [Facial attractiveness](#), [Self-concept](#), [Index of Treatment Need–Aesthetic Component](#), [Peer Assessment Rating](#)

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