

# Prioritizing Areas for Future COS Development in Skin Surgery

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# Initial Observations

- Abundance of published RCTs on cosmetic interventions and procedural treatments for other skin problems (in Dermatologic Surgery and other journals).
- Many methodologic concerns: small sample size, variability in treatment parameters, poorly specified randomization.
- *Very poor comparability, even between trials of similar interventions due to wide disparity in outcome measures.*

# Formation of a Steering Group

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Todd Cartee

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Ian Maher

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Murad Alam

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# Surgery is Not a Skin Condition

- Too big a topic to address with a single core outcome set.
- Focus on human appearance, of face.

# Facial Appearance in Children

- Socially anxiety
- Poor social competence
- Dissatisfied with their peer relationships



# Assessment of Others Based on Patients' Appearance

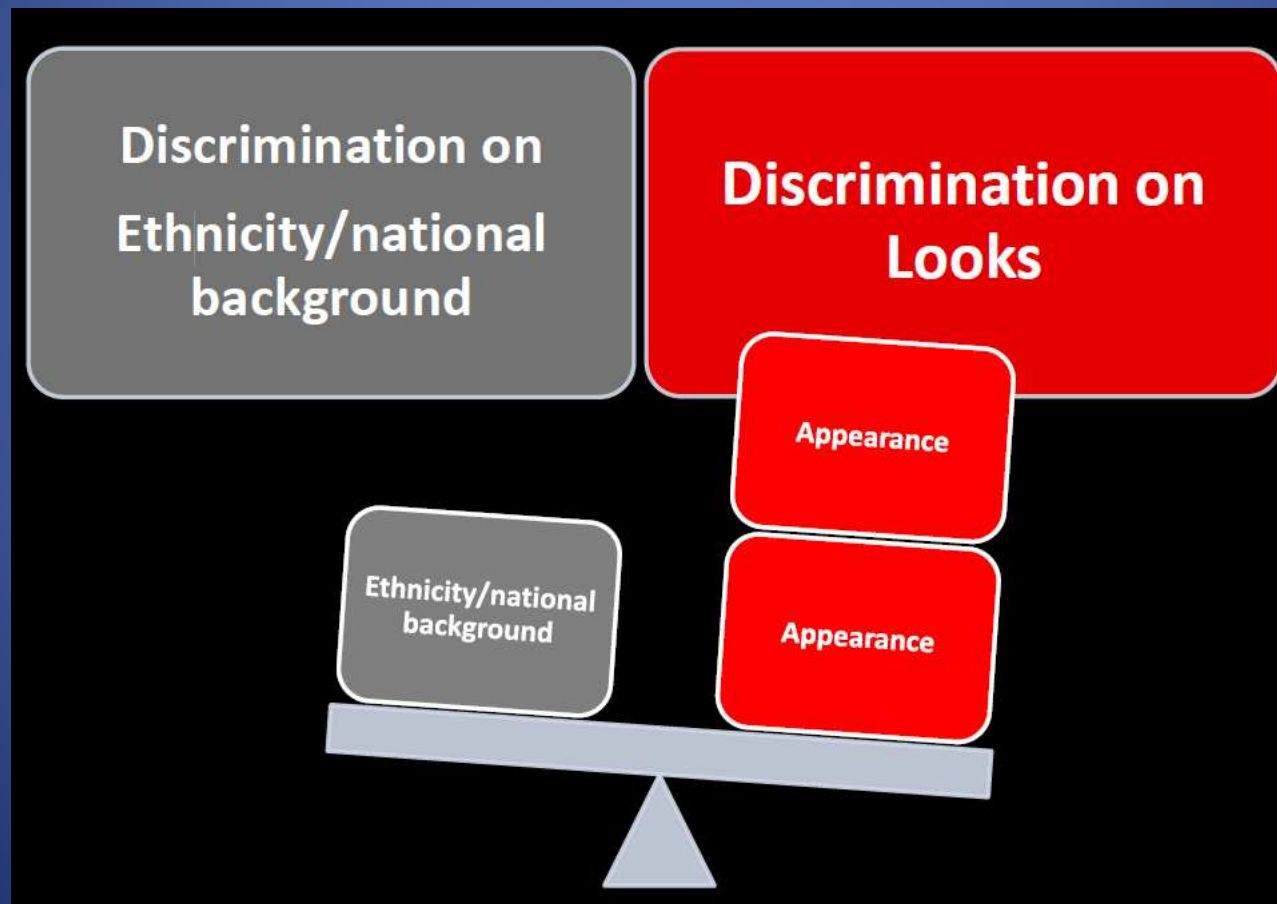
- *less honest (p 0.007)*
- *less employable (p 0.001)*
- *less trustworthy (p 0.01)*
- *less optimistic (p 0.001)*
- *less effective (p 0.02)*
- *less capable (p 0.002)*
- *less intelligent (p 0.03)*
- *less popular (p 0.001)*
- *less attractive (p 0.001)*



than the same patients with normal facial appearance.

# Patients Believe Others Assess Them Based on Appearance

(US telephone survey)



# Patient Perception of Scarring

- Based on structured interviews with patients:
  - Most patients feel they are more concerned with their own scarring than their surgeon
  - Majority of patients report they would “go to any lengths to minimize scarring, even if they resulted in only small improvements in scar appearance”



# IMPROVED: IMProving Research Outcomes Via Excellence in Derm Surgery

“To standardize  
measurements of  
changes in the  
physical  
appearance and  
functions of the  
skin”

# What is IMPROVED?

- Consensus group
- Experts in
  - Mohs
  - Reconstruction
  - Cosmetic surgery
  - Light based therapies
  - Injectables
- Aim
  - Develop COS for assessment of appearance

# IMPROVED history

- Steering committee met in October 2013
  - Agreed on need for core outcomes in dermatologic surgery
  - Following precedent of rheumatology (OMERACT), psoriasis (IDEOM), atopic dermatitis (HOME)
- Rather than focusing on single procedure or condition we decided to develop COS for “appearance,” in particular facial appearance, as it influences numerous dermatologic interventions

# IMPROVED history

- Winter 2014
  - Invitations sent to potentially interested dermatologic surgeons
- AAD 2014
  - First in person meeting of IMPROVED Working Group
  - Ratified target (appearance/face)
  - Selected name
  - Facilitated discussion to solicit potential domains for Delphi process

# IMPROVED history

- Spring 2015
  - Meeting of working group at AAD
  - Discussion of outcomes after several rounds of physician Delphi
- Winter 2015
  - Physician and patient Delphi completed
- Future plans
  - Involvement of additional stakeholders

# Questions

- Other areas that need COS in dermatologic surgery?
- Alternatives to Delphi?
- Suggestions regarding process, and which codified process(es) to follow?