

Maxillary Anterior Teeth Proportions for Creating Esthetically Pleasuring Smile in Nepalese Patients

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This letter is written as a commentary concerning the conclusion of the article "Evaluation of Maxillary Anterior Teeth in Relation to Golden Proportion, Red Proportion and Golden Percentage" by Shrestha and Joshi.¹ The conclusion number one, stating that "Golden percentage is an appropriate anterior tooth proportion which may serve as a guideline for the restoration of anterior tooth" is not currently applicable for the modern smile design.

Many authors believed the Golden proportion (GP) in the maxillary anterior teeth could be used for smile design.² Unfortunately, studies done in different countries found that GP does not exist in a majority of patients in natural teeth and esthetically pleasing smile and GP is no longer the esthetic outcomes of a majority of the patients.³⁻⁶

Although Ward introduced Recurrent Esthetic Dental (RED) proportion which states that a constant proportion exists when progressing distally from the midline.⁷ But, later he mentioned that a fixed standard proportion may not be applicable in today's global world.⁴ If the concept of proportional smile design with a constant proportion is employed, the proportion between the widths of the teeth increases as the relative tooth lengths diminish. In addition, the relative sizes and proportions of the maxillary anterior teeth do not adhere to a fixed proportion and are variable. Different cultures and ethnicities show varied proportions as well as preferences. For instance, in North American population, Preston found that the width of the maxillary LI was 66% of the width of the central incisor (CI), and that the canine (CN) was 84% of the width of the lateral incisor (LI).⁷ Similarly, for Nepalese, GP and golden standard/percentage were not found, and Nepalese Esthetic Dental (NED) proportion results in esthetically pleasing smile.^{1,5} The W/L ratio for CI, LI, and CN was found to be 90%, 86%, 86% and a proportion of 66% for LI/CI and 70% for CN/LI was found. These can be utilized in the esthetic rehabilitation of maxillary anterior teeth in Nepalese patients.⁵

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