GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE IN AESTHETIC DERMATOLOGY

CHEAT SHEET

Dermatologists should adopt gender-neutral language in interactions with aesthetic patients, according to "A Genderfluid Approach to Aesthetic Language in Dermatology" by Marc Beuttler, MD, and Jennifer MacGregor, MD, published in the Journal of Drugs in Dermatology in January 2022. Gender-neutral language helps dermatologists prevent psychological upset or offense for patients with nonbinary gender identity or gender dysphoria. In addition, providing points of contrast helps the dermatologist align more precisely with the patient's goals.

Switch from using "masculine" or "feminine" as descriptors and use the following points of contrast with your aesthetic patients:



UPPER FACE

- Higher hairline
- Wider, more angular forehead
- Flat, horizontal, or lower-set brow
- More heavily lidded eyes or almond shaped



MID FACE

Flatter midface and/or angular cheekbones



NOSE

- Wider or longer nasal root (where the nose begins) or bridge
- Lower tip of the nose



LOWER FACE

- Wider, more square lower face or more prominent jaw line
- Wider, squarer chin
- Beard hair, coarser texture



HTUOM

• Wider mouth with thinner lips

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