

Background: Facelifts are one of the most common operative procedures for facial aging and perhaps the procedure most synonymous with plastic surgery in the mind of the lay public, but no verifiable documentation of patient satisfaction exists in the literature. This study is the first to examine facelift outcomes and patient satisfaction using a validated questionnaire.

Methods: 105 patients undergoing a facelift performed by the senior author (CMT) using an extended-SMAS technique were asked to complete the FACE-Q electronically. FACE-Q scores were assessed for each domain (range 0 – 100), with higher scores indicating greater satisfaction with appearance or superior quality of life.

Results: 53 patients completed the FACE-Q (50.5% response rate). Patients demonstrated high satisfaction with facial appearance (mean 80.7, SD 22.3), as well as enhanced quality of life, including social confidence (mean 90.4, SD 16.6), psychological well-being (mean 92.8, SD 14.3), and early life impact (mean 92.2, SD 16.4). Patients also reported extremely high satisfaction with the decision to undergo facelifting (mean 90.5, SD 15.9). On average, patients felt they looked 6.9 years younger than their actual age. Regarding specific appearance appraisal, patients were most satisfied with the appearance of their nasolabial folds (mean 86.2, SD 18.5), cheeks (mean 86.1, SD 25.4), and lower face/jawline (mean 86.0, SD 20.6), compared to satisfaction with the appearance of their necks (mean 78.1, SD 25.6) and area under the chin (mean 67.9, SD 32.3).

Conclusion: Patients in this study appear very satisfied with their decision, outcomes, and quality of life following facelifting.

Table 1. FACE-Q Scores

FACE-Q Domain	FACE-Q Scale	Mean Score (SD)
Appearance Appraisal	Satisfaction with Facial Appearance Overall	80.7 (22.3)
	Satisfaction with Cheeks	86.1 (25.4)
	Appraisal of Nasolabial Folds	86.3 (18.5)
	Satisfaction with Lower Face and Jawline	86.0 (20.6)
	Appraisal of Area Under Chin	67.9 (32.3)

	Appraisal of Neck	78.1 (25.6)
Quality of Life	Social Function (Confidence)	90.4 (16.6)
	Psychological Well-being	92.8 (14.3)
	Early Life Impact	92.2 (16.4)
	Aging Appraisal Visual Analog Scale (years)	-6.9 (5.4)
Process of Care	Satisfaction with Outcome	77.2 (17.7)
	Satisfaction with Decision	90.5 (15.9)