Morphometric Nose Parameters In Adult Nigerians
H Garandawa, O Nwaorgu, O Oluwatosin

Citation

Abstract
Background: Morphometric measurements including height, length, thickness and width of various part of the body vary among people even of the same race. This study of nose dimensions in normal adult Nigerians was carried out at University College Hospital, Ibadan and University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Nigeria. Objective: The purpose of the study is to provide a set of standard values of the form of nose and its relationship with other facial structures of adult Nigerians. Methods: The subjects were 1010 adult Nigerians selected by convenience sampling method. Composed of 572 (56.6%) males, 438 (43.4%) females. Nostril type was assigned according to inclination of the medial longitudinal axis of the nostril following Topinard system. Other measurements include height, length of the nose, length of the face and 5 soft tissue nose measurements. The data obtained were compared with the measurements of other population in literature. Results: The mean length of the nose found in the study was 47.7 (4.9)mm, width of the nose was 42.2 (3.7)mm. The most common nostril type was Nostril type VI (41.3%). None in this study was found with Nostril Type I or II. There was no Significant difference in the distribution of Nostril Type between the sexes (p>0.05). Conclusion: Parameters evaluated in this study provides important data for forensic medicine, physical anthropometry data base and to guide surgeons in rhinoplasty, nasal reconstruction on adult Nigerian.

INTRODUCTION
The external nose is pyramidal in structure and its skeletal framework made up of bone and cartilages which maintain its shape. The upper angle of the nose where it is continuous with the forehead is called the root of the nose. The base is triangular in shape and has two openings called the anterior nares or nostrils. The two nostrils lead to the skin lined part of the nasal cavities called the vestibule of the nose. The nasal cavity is divided into left and right cavities by nasal septum behind and columella in front. The free angle of the nose below forms its apex and is called the tip of the nose. It is connected to the nose by the dorsum. The upper part of the dorsum is called the bridge. The external nose serves the cosmetic function by enhancing the personality and beauty of the individual, the nasal cavities act as a gateway to the respiratory tract were it filters and conditions the inspired air, it also serves as an organ for perception of smell.  

The white race has a narrow, long, high nose (Leptorrhine), blacks have wide flat noses (Platyrrhine) and the Orientals have nose with intermediate measurements (Mesorrhine). Nostrils were classified into seven types according to the inclination of the medial longitudinal axis. 

The nose may be evaluated by direct clinical measurements (morphometry), by photography (photogrammetry), lateral radiograph (cephalometry) or more recently three-dimensional(3D) scans and digitizers.  

The purpose of the study was to obtain normal values of nose parameters in adult Nigerians in order to guide surgeons to correct various nose anomalies and aesthetic surgery especially on blacks.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS
The study group consisted of 1010 selected adult Nigerians (18 years and above) by convenience sampling of cases who attended the Ear Nose and Throat Clinic of two tertiary institution in Nigeria, namely University College Hospital, Ibadan. University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Maiduguri. Non Nigerians and those with noticeable nose anomalies or bald subjects were excluded from the study.

The following measurements were carried out on each subject: Height (HT), upper facial height (UFH), Midfacial Height (MFH), Lower facial Height (LFH), Nasal tip protrusion (NTP), length of the nose (LN), width of the nose (WN), width of the columella (WC), length of columella (LC), inclination of medial longitudinal axis of the nostril (IMLA)
Measurements were obtained using sliding caliper, transparent protractor, measuring ruler, and height board. The facial and nasal measurements were carried out with the patients lying in supine position on an examination table, the inclination of the medial longitudinal axis of the nostril were measured with the patients head in recumbent position and with the mid facial plane in vertical position. The top and bottom points were marked on the skin of the nostrils and the inclination of line connecting the top and bottom points of the medial longitudinal axis were measured by placing the zero mark of the protractor on the point at the bottom of the nostrils while holding the protractor horizontal. The top point of the nostril indicates the degree of the inclination on the scale. The linear measurements were measured using sliding calipers and measuring tapes. The Data were analyzed using SPSS versions 16.0 software programme, the results were presented in tabular forms and diagrams, the statistical test (t-test, chi-square) and correlations studies were applied where appropriate, level of significance was taken to be P< 0.05. The data obtained were compared with the measurements of other population in literature.

RESULTS

Five hundred and seventy two (56.6%) were males and 438 (43.4%) were females, mean age of the study group was 33.2 years with age range of 18 – 70 years. The mean height was 1.64m with range of 1.43 – 1.91m.

Nasal measurements: The mean (± standard deviation) length of the nose found in the study was 47.6 (4.9)mm. In males it was 47.8 (4.9)mm and in females, 47.6 (4.9)mm. The mean of the nasal tip protrusion in males was 19.7 (2.2)mm and in females, 19.3 (2.2)mm, there was significant difference in the measurements between the two sexes (P< 0.05). The mean width of the nose was 42.2 (3.7)mm, in males was 42.5 (3.9)mm and in females 41.8 (3.4)mm, there was significant difference in measurements between the sexes (P< 0.05). The mean length of the columella was 13.8 (3.8)mm, in males 13.9 (3.8)mm and in females 13.7 (3.7)mm. The mean width of the columella was 9.6 (1.4)mm, in males 9.6 (1.4)mm, in females 9.5 (1.6)mm. There was no significant difference in measurements between the two sexes (P>0.05) Table 1.

Nostril type: The nostrils were symmetrical in all subjects in the study group. One hundred and twenty seven (12.6%) were males and 438 (43.4%) were females, mean age of the study group was 33.2 years with age range of 18 – 70 years. The mean height was 1.64m with range of 1.43 – 1.91m.

Table 1: Nasal Measurement By Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>P. Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length of the nose (LN)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widths of the nose (WN)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal tip protrusion (NTP)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of the columella (LCR)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of the columella (WCh)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

572 males, 438 females, *Significant values.
Table 2: Nostril Type By Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclination (Degrees)</th>
<th>Nostil type</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40-34</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>75(59.1)</td>
<td>52(40.9)</td>
<td>127(12.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>65(55.6)</td>
<td>52(44.4)</td>
<td>117(11.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-39</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>148(56.5)</td>
<td>110(43.5)</td>
<td>258(25.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-24</td>
<td>VI</td>
<td>237(56.8)</td>
<td>180(43.2)</td>
<td>417(41.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td>52(54.2)</td>
<td>44(45.8)</td>
<td>96(9.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square P = 0.9

Note: None in the study group was found with either Nostril type I or II

Table 3: Nasal measurement according to nostril type in the study population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nostil Type</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Nasal Tip Protrusion (NTP)</th>
<th>Width of Nose (WN)</th>
<th>Width of Columella (WC)</th>
<th>Length of Right Columella (LGR)</th>
<th>Length of Nose (LN)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EI</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>22.3 ± 2.0</td>
<td>41.4 ± 4.4</td>
<td>9.6 ± 1.2</td>
<td>15.9 ± 4.1</td>
<td>50.9 ± 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>18.3 ± 2.8</td>
<td>42.3 ± 2.4</td>
<td>9.5 ± 2.1</td>
<td>12.9 ± 2.4</td>
<td>47.5 ± 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>18.4 ± 2.2</td>
<td>42.5 ± 1.8</td>
<td>9.5 ± 2.3</td>
<td>12.8 ± 1.8</td>
<td>47.8 ± 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>19.4 ± 1.6</td>
<td>42.3 ± 3.4</td>
<td>9.7 ± 2.1</td>
<td>13.3 ± 1.7</td>
<td>47.3 ± 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>17.9 ± 1.8</td>
<td>42.8 ± 4.4</td>
<td>9.9 ± 1.3</td>
<td>12.1 ± 3.4</td>
<td>46.8 ± 1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant values.

Table 4: Facial Measurement By Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Max (mm)</th>
<th>Min (mm)</th>
<th>Mean (mm)</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper facial breadth</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>0.05*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper facial height</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid facial height</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid facial height</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower facial breadth</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>0.01*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower facial height</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

572 Males, 438 Females. *Significant values.
Figure 6
Figure 2: Nostril Type – Modified Topinard System
Showing the average inclination of the medial longitudinal
axis.

DISCUSSION
Anthropometry is the study of human body measurements,
whereas morphometry is measurement of the external form.
14 Anthropometry of the face has always been interesting
subject for artist and plastic surgeon, various modalities has
been adopted to evaluate the dimensions of the nose and face
but none standout comprehensive.

The photogrammetric study involves taking measurements
from life-size frontal and lateral view photographs of the
head; however, its usefulness is limited due to errors
resulting from improper positioning, in the marking
technique or in identification of the land marks. However,
good pre-operative and post-operative photographs are
essential for rhinoplasty.15 In cephalometric analysis
of the nose, the radiographs were taken with the head held in
natural position with the teeth occluded and both lips
relaxed, measurements were obtained from the references
points marked on the radiographs. However, the variability
in the facial expression especially in the mobile parts of the
face as well as improper positioning may affect the soft
tissue measurements. Despite these, lateral cephalometric
analysis has the advantage of simultaneously imaging the
soft tissue profile and facial skeleton.11 The three-dimensional measurements (3D-Scan) was
found to be more reliable, data from the 3D-scanned images
can be used to derive all of the traditional anthropometric
measures, such as linear distances and angles and surface
contours but its use is limited because of cost.11 In this study
a direct morphometric measurements on 1010 adult
Nigerians was carried out. The traditional measurement
technique was preferred over other anthropometric
measurements because of the reliability and cost
effectiveness especially in our environment.

The mean length of the nose in this study was 47.6(4.9)mm
was similar to studies by Olutu et-al22, Garandawa et-al23,
46.4(7.9)mm, 46.6(5.2)mm respectively, but significantly
shorter in length according to the findings of Akpa et-al24,
with PJ12, Amet et-al25 who found the mean length of the
nose to be 62.2mm, 55.0mm, 56.9mm respectively. The
mean width of the nose in this study was 42.2(3.7)mm,
33.6mm was found among the Turks, most Caucasians had
narrower nose compared to blacks.7 Typically negroid
nose is platyrhine, characterized by flaring of the alar nasi,
broad nose base and thick columella as confirmed in this
study.26

Nostril type V(25%) and VI(41.3%) were found to be most
common in the study group, this is similar to the findings of
Farkas et-al7 who found that 50% of the negros in their
study had nostril type VI. Nostril type III found in this study
was very similar to the Caucasian nose found by Farkas,
whereas Nostril type VII had all the characteristic of the
negroid nose.

There was no sex differences in most of the measurements
carried out in this study (Tables I & II), this is in contrast to
studies by Olutu22, Oladipo23 who reported higher value
(p<0.005) of all parameters in males compared to females.

The vertical facial measurements varied significantly
(p<0.005), this is similar to the study by farkas4 who found
equality of no more than two parts of the face. The mean
upper facial height was longer than the mean lower facial
height in this studies, the reverse was reported by Bormah on
young Turkish adults.28 Height does not influence most of
the nasal measurements but correlates the facial measurements in this study in contrast to the work of Kelso as reported by Farkas, most tall individual had relatively longer nose length.

The factors responsible for the variations in the size, shape and length of the nose could include genetic factors, race, tribe and environmental climatic conditions with narrower noses being favoured in cold and dry climates and broader noses in warm and moist environment as a consequence of natural selection in human evolution.

Conclusion: Parameters evaluated in this study provides important data for forensic medicine, physical anthropometry data base and to guide surgeons in rhinoplasty, nasal reconstruction on adult Nigerian.

References
Author Information

Hamman I Garandawa, FWACS,FMCORL,FICS
ENT Department, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital

Onyekwere G B Nwaorgu, FWACS,FMCORL,FICS
Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University College Hospital

Odunayo M Oluwatosin, FWACS,FMCS,FICS
Department of Surgery, Plastic Unit, University College Hospital