

Upper Face Height-Total Face Height Ratio in Adult American Black Males

CHARLES J. KOWALSKI and CARLOS E. NASJLETI

Dental Research Institute, University of Michigan, and Veterans Administration Hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA

In a recent article (*J Dent Res* 54:1241, 1975), we showed that despite the fact that definite increases in facial height occurred in a sample of 510 adult American white males, the upper face height-total face height ratio remained remarkably constant with increasing age, being of the order of 43.5% throughout adulthood. The purpose of the present report is to present comparable data for a sample of 214 adult American black males for the same age range. Each of these individuals was seen for care at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor and each had a sufficiently natural occlusion with anterior and posterior centric stops so that total face height in centric occlusion could be reliably determined. Total face height was measured as the distance from nasion to menton and upper face height was measured, along this line,

from nasion to the line connecting the anterior and posterior nasal spines (ANS to PNS).

The data are given in the table where the sample sizes and the mean values of upper face height, total face height, and the upper face height-total face height ratio are given for each of five age groups. The column headed standard deviation contains the standard deviations of the upper face height-total face height ratios within each of the age groups considered. The values in parentheses refer to those previously reported for the adult white males. It is seen that although the upper face height-total face height ratio for the blacks is slightly smaller than that for the whites in each of the five age groups, it remains essentially constant through the age range studied. This finding again supports Särnas' (*Acta Odontol Scand* 15:218, 1957) claim that the upper face height-total face height ratio is unaffected by age and racial factors.

Received for publication January 30, 1976.

Accepted for publication March 18, 1976.

TABLE
AVERAGE VALUES OF VERTICAL FACIAL DIMENSIONS FOR
BLACK (AND WHITE) ADULT AMERICAN MALES

Age Interval	Sample Size	Upper Face Height (mm)	Total Face Height (mm)	Upper-Total Face Height Ratio (%)	SD
20-29	80 (130)	58.34 (58.97)	138.74 (134.72)	42.10 (43.83)	2.1 (2.2)
30-39	35 (88)	58.61 (59.21)	138.07 (137.16)	42.47 (43.29)	2.0 (2.4)
40-49	66 (125)	58.64 (59.70)	139.71 (137.02)	42.00 (43.62)	2.1 (2.1)
50-59	36 (122)	58.98 (59.39)	139.51 (137.50)	42.30 (43.20)	2.0 (2.1)
≥ 60	27 (45)	58.20 (60.91)	141.00 (139.66)	41.31 (43.65)	1.9 (2.2)

Note: Values in parenthesis refer to those previously reported for the adult white males.