Women Continue to be Underrepresented in Rhinoplasty Literature and Symposia

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AIM

• To assess the gender disparity in plastic surgeons involved in rhinoplasty.

BACKGROUND

• Women represent an increasing ratio of plastic surgery residents and faculty, but remain underrepresented in certain sub-specialties.
• A recent NESPS Workshop focused on rhinoplasty appeared to lack female representation, with only 15.6% women attending.

METHODS

Rhinoplasty Literature

• Reviewed original rhinoplasty articles published in the top plastic surgery journals between January 2013 and March 2019 using the search terms “rhinoplasty,” “nose,” and “nasal.” Replies, discussions, and letters were excluded.
• Determined the genders of first, second, and last authors by examining gender pronouns used in biographies found online. Authors whose profiles could not be accessed due to cultural limitations were excluded.

National Symposia

• Reviewed and analyzed the gender ratio of attendees at Plastic Surgery The Meeting (PSTM) 2019 rhinoplasty sessions as compared to other aesthetic disciplines.

RESULTS

Rhinoplasty Literature

• Women comprised 18% (115) of first authors, 25% (121) of second authors, and 12% (72) of last authors in original rhinoplasty articles.
• 821 rhinoplasty publications were reviewed, and 689 articles met search criteria.
• The genders of 1763 authors were identified (95%) from 1861 first, second, and last authors.

National Symposia

• Women comprised a significantly smaller proportion of attendees at rhinoplasty sessions, as compared to other aesthetic disciplines.
• Women comprised 15% (248) of attendees of all rhinoplasty sessions.
• In contrast, women comprised 29% (366) of all Breast Aesthetics sessions, and 19% (333) of all Body Contouring sessions.

CONCLUSIONS

• Women are increasingly represented in plastic surgery, but their rates of journal authorship and symposia attendance in rhinoplasty remain low.
• Future research is needed to further elucidate the cause of this gender disparity, and promote interventions to encourage women involvement in rhinoplasty.