

Selfies give distorted facial view

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Selfies can negatively affect perceived facial appearance, according to a study published in the April issue of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.

Mark P. Pressler, M.D., from the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, and colleagues tried to quantify changes in size and perception of facial features when taking a selfie compared to the gold standard of clinical [photography](#). Three photographs (a 12-inch and 18-inch series with a front-facing smartphone camera and the five-foot clinical photography series using a digital single-lens reflex camera) were taken of 30 volunteers.

The researchers found that nasal length was an average of 6.4 percent longer in 12-inch selfies versus clinical photography and 4.3 percent longer in 18-inch selfies versus clinical photography. There were no significant differences in alar base width comparing selfies to clinical photography. There was a decrease of 10.8 percent in size of the nose in relation to the face when comparing 12-inch selfies to clinical photography and a decrease of 7.8 percent when comparing 18-inch selfies to clinical photography.

"These data allow for a more precise conversation between the surgeon and the patient," the authors write. "Further study will elucidate how changes between different photography settings further contribute to distortions and perceptions in [plastic surgery](#)."

More information: Mark P. Pressler et al, Size and Perception of Facial Features with Selfie Photographs, and Their Implication in Rhinoplasty and Facial Plastic Surgery, *Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery* (2022). [DOI: 10.1097/PRS.00000000000008961](https://doi.org/10.1097/PRS.00000000000008961)

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