### Facial and Nasal Anatomy: An In-Depth Guide for Facial Plastic Surgeons



Facial and Nasal Anatomy, An Issue of Facial Plastic **Surgery Clinics of North America, E-Book (The Clinics:** 

Internal Medicine) by Alex Anatole



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Facial and nasal anatomy are complex and intricate structures that play a crucial role in facial aesthetics and function. A thorough understanding of these anatomical features is essential for facial plastic surgeons to perform successful and aesthetically pleasing procedures such as rhinoplasty, otoplasty, blepharoplasty, facelift, and brow lift.

This comprehensive article provides an in-depth overview of facial and nasal anatomy, highlighting the key structures and their relationships to each other. By understanding the underlying anatomy, facial plastic surgeons can better plan and execute surgical procedures, minimizing complications and achieving optimal results.

#### **Facial Anatomy**

#### **Bones of the Face**

The facial skeleton is composed of 14 bones, which provide support and shape to the face. The main bones include:

- Frontal bone: Forms the forehead
- Parietal bones: Form the sides and top of the skull
- Temporal bones: House the ears and contain the inner ear structures
- Zygomatic bones (cheekbones): Form the prominence of the cheeks
- Maxillae: Form the upper jaw and contain the tooth sockets
- Mandible: Forms the lower jaw and contains the tooth sockets
- Nasal bones: Form the bridge of the nose

#### **Muscles of the Face**

The facial muscles are responsible for facial expressions and movement. The main muscles include:

- Frontalis muscle: Raises the eyebrows
- Orbicularis oculi muscle: Surrounds the eyes and controls blinking
- Zygomaticus major and minor muscles: Raise the corners of the mouth
- Risorius muscle: Pulls the corners of the mouth laterally
- Depressor anguli oris muscle: Lowers the corners of the mouth
- Mentalis muscle: Raises the chin

Platysma muscle: Forms the superficial neck muscles

#### **Nerves of the Face**

The facial nerves innervate the muscles of the face and transmit sensory information from the face to the brain. The main nerves include:

- Trigeminal nerve: Provides sensation to the face and controls chewing
- Facial nerve: Innervates the muscles of facial expression
- Glossopharyngeal nerve: Innervates the back of the tongue and throat
- Vagus nerve: Innervates the larynx and esophagus

#### **Blood Vessels of the Face**

The facial blood vessels supply blood to the tissues of the face. The main arteries include:

- Facial artery: Main artery supplying the face
- Maxillary artery: Supplies the upper face
- Superficial temporal artery: Supplies the forehead and scalp

#### **Lymph Nodes of the Face**

The facial lymph nodes are responsible for filtering and draining lymph from the face and neck. The main lymph node groups include:

- Submandibular lymph nodes: Located below the jawbone
- Parotid lymph nodes: Located near the parotid gland
- Submental lymph nodes: Located below the chin

Superficial cervical lymph nodes: Located along the neck

#### **Nasal Anatomy**

#### **Bones of the Nose**

The nasal skeleton is composed of 13 bones, which form the shape and structure of the nose. The main bones include:

- Nasal bones: Form the bridge of the nose
- Frontal bone: Forms the top of the nose
- Maxillae: Form the sides and floor of the nose
- Septal cartilage: Divides the nasal cavity into two halves
- Lateral nasal cartilages: Form the outer shape of the nostrils

#### **Muscles of the Nose**

The nasal muscles control the movement and function of the nose. The main muscles include:

- Nasalis muscle: Dilates the nostrils
- Depressor septi nasi muscle: Lowers the nasal tip
- Levator labii superioris alaeque nasi muscle: Elevates the upper lip and nasal alae

#### **Nerves of the Nose**

The nasal nerves innervate the structures of the nose and transmit sensory information to the brain. The main nerves include:

Trigeminal nerve: Provides sensation to the nose and sinuses

Olfactory nerve: Responsible for the sense of smell

#### **Blood Vessels of the Nose**

The nasal blood vessels supply blood to the tissues of the nose. The main arteries include:

Facial artery: Main artery supplying the nose

Infraorbital artery: Supplies the inner nose

Ethmoidal arteries: Supply the sinuses

#### **Clinical Applications**

A thorough understanding of facial and nasal anatomy is crucial for facial plastic surgeons performing various surgical procedures.

#### **Rhinoplasty**

Rhinoplasty, commonly known as a nose job, involves reshaping the nose to improve its appearance and function. An understanding of the underlying nasal anatomy, including the bones, cartilages, and soft tissues, is essential for successful rhinoplasty outcomes.

#### **Otoplasty**

Otoplasty, also known as ear surgery, addresses prominent or malformed ears. A detailed knowledge of the anatomy of the ear, including the cartilage and surrounding tissues, is necessary to achieve natural-looking and functional results.

#### **Blepharoplasty**

Blepharoplasty, commonly referred to as eyelid surgery, aims to improve the appearance of the eyelids by removing excess skin and fat. An in-depth understanding of the anatomy of the eyelids, including the muscles, nerves, and blood vessels, is crucial for avoiding complications.

#### **Facelift**

Facelift surgery rejuvenates the appearance of the face and



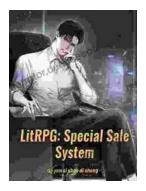
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

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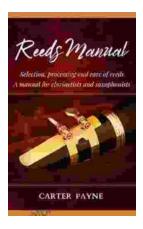
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