Response to “Clarification Needed for Case Presented in ‘The Excision of the Buccal Fat Pad for Cheek Refinement: Volumetric Considerations’”

Billur Sezgin, MD, Medine Boge, MD, Reha Yavuzer, MD, Sedat Tatar, MD, Selahattin Ozmen, MD

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It has been brought to our attention that 1 patient in our paper entitled “The Excision of the Buccal Fat Pad for Cheek Refinement: Volumetric Considerations”¹ was presumed to have undergone genioplasty or some form of mandibular orthognathic surgery.² This was not the case: this patient only underwent rhinoplasty and partial buccal fat pad excision along with botulinum toxin type A treatment for masseter hypertrophy at the time of surgery. The botulinum toxin treatment was not addressed because the postoperative photographs were taken 15 months after the procedure and there was no residual effect present. The patient also had subtle liposuction in her submental region which might be the reason for her chin seeming more prominent. However, she did not receive any fat injections or filler treatments or undergo any procedures to augment her chin or mandibular contour. Therefore, no other procedures were performed that could have resulted in additional reshaping effects of this patient’s cheek area.

We take considerable care to ensure that we can document all of our patients with standardized photography. Even so, sometimes patients are unable to provide the same exact angle and facial expression months after their treatment. As surgeons and clinicians who strive to present accurate scientific data collected through ethically performed hard work, we believe it is always a good option to clarify questions before jumping to conclusions and accusations. We would like to thank Dr Gilman for allowing us to clarify any uncertainties regarding our study and our results.

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