

BACKGROUND

- Head and neck cancer affects more than 500,000 individuals worldwide each year.¹
- Microvascular free tissue transfer is often recommended due to patients often having large bony, mucosal, and/or cutaneous defects following ablation.²
- The FACE-Q is a validated patient-reported outcome measure for evaluating patient satisfaction and outcomes in aesthetic facial surgery.³
- Using this instrument allows helps to gain better understanding of aesthetic postoperative outcomes in the microvascular patient population and will improve patient satisfaction.

METHODS

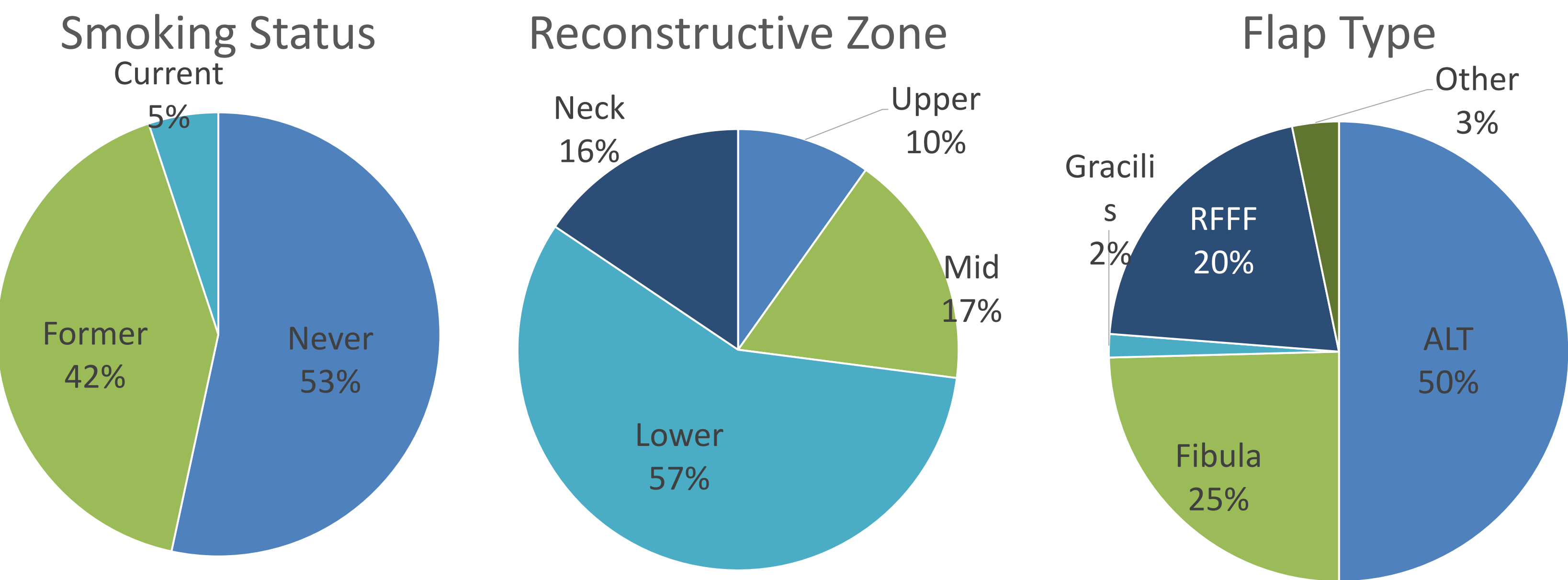
- Retrospective cohort study of patients aged 18 years or older who underwent cervicofacial reconstruction with microvascular free tissue transfer
- FACE-Q appearance scale questionnaire at a tertiary academic center between January 2018 to December 2023
- Facial appearance (SFA), appraisal of neck (AON), and adverse effects on cheeks, lower face, and neck (CLFN)
- Uni/multivariable logistic regressions conducted for age, sex, reconstructive zone, type of flap, history of neck dissection, adjuvant therapy, and time follow up survey were performed

Patient-Reported Aesthetic Outcomes Following Cervicofacial Reconstruction with Microvascular Free Tissue Transfer

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RESULTS

- 126 included
- 83 patients were 60 years of age or older
- 78 of patients were male.



Characteristic	Satisfaction with Facial Appearance	P Value	Appraisal of Neck	P Value	Cheeks, Lower Face, and Neck	P Value
Overall	56.3		24.2		52.2	
Age						
<60	52.5	Reference	28.8	Reference	53.7	Reference
>60	58.1	0.143	22.1	0.684	51.5	0.909
Sex						
Female	48.8	Reference	28.9	Reference	54.7	Reference
Male	60.6	0.003	21.6	0.542	50.8	0.888
Smoking Status						
Never	57.6	0.800	23.0	0.121	51.9	0.146
Former	53.7	0.999	25.4	0.273	52.1	0.158
Current	50.3	0.387	23.8	0.311	57.0	0.315
History of Neck Dissection						
No	57.0	Reference	22.0	Reference	51.1	Reference
Yes	53.5	0.943	25.6	0.613	52.9	0.612
Adjuvant Radiation						
No	55.0	Reference	25.6	Reference	52.8	Reference
Yes	58.2	0.842	22.2	0.546	51.3	0.853
Follow-up						
<6 months	53.6	Reference	22.7	Reference	53.5	Reference
>6 months	58.3	0.002	25.3	0.440	51.3	0.272

DISCUSSION

- Patients undergoing free flap reconstruction of head and neck subsites have high functional and aesthetic morbidity.
- While no variable led to worsening of facial appearance or adverse effects, there is significant room for improvement of overall aesthetic satisfaction.
- A large-scale prospective study will help explore how the studied variables are related to aesthetic outcomes and appearance-related distress postoperatively for these patients.

REFERENCES

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3. Klassen AF, Cano SJ, Schwitzer JA, Scott AM, Pusic AL. FACE-Q scales for health-related quality of life, early life impact, satisfaction with outcomes, and decision to have treatment: development and validation. Plast Reconstr Surg 2015;135:375–386