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INTRODUCTION

Iran is ranked among the ýrst in terms of number of cosmetic

a greater efýcacy in subjects who are psychologically more stable aiding in decreasing shyness and anxiety, betterment of interpersonal interactions, and improving self-esteem, attractiveness and

foreclosure, moratorium and achievement while it remained unchanged in those with identity diffusion. This difference at P = 0.05 was not statistically signiýcant (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

The present study aimed to determine the effect of cosmetic surgery on self-esteem and self-conceptualization of surgical patients and assess the role of identity status in this respect.

Subjects with identity diffusion may believe the outcome of surgery to be more beneýcial and feel a signiýcantly higher improvement in their self-esteem than those with identity achievement. Recognition of the underlying factors in this respect can enhance the knowledge of both the specialists and the candidates about the underlying reasons for tendency towards cosmetic surgery. Studies like the present investigation can help in recognizing the psychological determinants involved in this regard and reducing the negative consequences and patient dissatisfaction after cosmetic surgeries.

The study results demonstrated that self-esteem of respondents increased signiýcantly after the operation but their self-concept did not show a signiýcant improvement. However, self-concept in subjects with identity foreclosure, moratorium and achievement improved. This ýnding is in accord with some and in contrast with a few other studies. For instance, some evidence show that cosmetic surgery helps in improving body image (Crerand, Franklin, & Sarwer, 2008; Soest, Kvalem, Roald, & Skolleborg, 2009; Kamburoglu & Figen, 2007) and health-related quality of life and self esteem (Neto et al., 2007). However, there are some other studies demonstrating that cosmetic surgery did not have a signiýcant effect on self-esteem, quality of life or life satisfaction (Crerand, Franklin, & Sarwer, 2008; Soest, Kvalem, Roald, & Skolleborg, 2009; Meningaud et al., 2003; Bolton, Pruzinsky, Cash, & Persing, 2003).

Low statistical power of the present study indicates that sample size is responsible for insigniýcant differences between the means. Also, self-esteem of subjects with identity moratorium decreased after surgery sur

Those with identity moratorium although are in ñcrisisò, still continue to search and explore. They are indecisive and live in hesitation and uncertainty. They are competitive and undecided and do a lot of search for cosmetic surgery. Since they are determined to explore their identity, they accept the changes caused by the cosmetic surgery as a positive change. These patients usually have a lively spirit and are interested in making friends and get close to others. This spirit helps in accepting the changes following cosmetic surgery.

Results demonstrated that frequency of identity foreclosure was higher among male candidates. It seems that male cosmetic surgery candidates with identity foreclosure did not have a chance to explore themselves in the past, thus they turn to cosmetic surgery to compensate their sense of minority, increase their acceptability, add to their values by changing their appearance and tend to their outer beauty in order to overcome their sense of inner worthlessness. Women with identity achievement and foreclosure are interested in cosmetic surgery because they like to seem more successful and attractive.

An interesting ýnding demonstrated that self-concept of women prior to surgery was poorer than that of men but improved post-operatively. Inversely, self-concept of males decreased signiýcantly after the surgery. Another ýnding demonstrated that self-concept of subjects older than 25 years of age improved post-operatively while that of the two younger age groups decreased. This can be due to the over-expectation and exaggeration of younger subjects regarding their changed appearance. They usually fantasize about their new look and expect too much from cosmetic surgery. Such an expected

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