Racial Diversity of Patient Population in Plastic Surgery Literature

Racial minorities are visually underrepresented in medical journals and educational textbooks leading to disparities in healthcare





This study examined the racial diversity of photographs published in plastic surgery journals

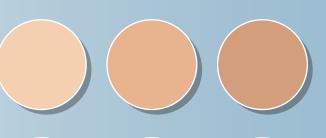
Photometric analysis of five plastic surgery journals from the USA, Canada, and Europe



Published articles from 2000, 2010, and 2020

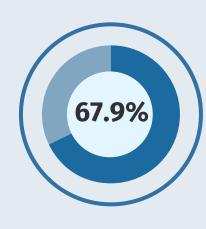


Colored images of aesthetic and breast reconstruction surgery

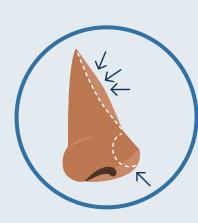


White skin images





Higher white skin images for most procedures



No difference for rhinoplasty



More non-white skin images for blepharoplasty



Racial diversity in plastic surgery publications has increased over the years



European journals had more non-white skin images than USA journals



Diversity of white skin and non-white skin images varied by geographic location

Despite improvements in recent years, the racial diversity of photographs published in plastic surgery journals does not adequately represent patient demographics