
Supplemental Digital Appendix 1
Questions From the Pre- and Post-Evaluation for a Facial Expression Workshop⁵

The following items were included in both the pre- and post-workshop evaluation:

Confidence

1. How confident are you that you can recognize subtle expressions of emotion in your patients? (1 = not at all confident, 5 = extremely confident)
2. If a patient is trying to conceal a strong emotion, how confident are you that you can still recognize the emotion on his/her face? (1 = not at all confident, 5 = extremely confident)
3. When you realize that a patient is becoming emotional, how confident do you feel in managing the situation? (1 = not at all confident, 5 = extremely confident)

Importance

4. How important is it for practitioners to be able to recognize emotions in their patients? (1 = not at all important, 5 = extremely important)
5. How important is it for practitioners to be able to interpret facial expressions? (1 = not at all important, 5 = extremely important)

Knowledge, fact-based

6. Which of the following is the most specific sign of anger?
   a. Jaw thrust forward
   b. Medial portion of eyebrows angled down
   c. Thin lips
   d. Tightened corners of the mouth
   e. Upper eyelids raised
7. Which of the following best distinguishes a smile of “true” happiness from a smile of “fake” happiness?
   a. Cheeks raised
   b. Lower eyelids relaxed
   c. Mouth open
   d. Skin between eyebrow and eyelid lowered
   e. Wide smile

8. If a patient has a raised and tightened corner of his mouth, it would be most consistent with which emotion?
   a. Anger
   b. Contempt
   c. Disgust
   d. Fear
   e. Happiness
   f. Sadness
   g. Surprise

9. If a patient has lowered eyebrows and a raised upper lip, it would be most consistent with which emotion?
   a. Anger
   b. Contempt
   c. Disgust
   d. Fear
   e. Happiness
Knowledge, case-based

10. A patient in the hospital gets sicker because he is given the wrong medicine. When you inform him of the error, you note his lips are stretched horizontally and his eyebrows are raised and drawn together. What emotion is he most likely experiencing?

   a. Anger
   b. Contempt
   c. Disgust
   d. Fear
   e. Happiness
   f. Sadness
   g. Surprise

11. A couple is having trouble becoming pregnant. After an evaluation, you inform them that it is very unlikely that they will ever be able to conceive. You note that the woman has tightened corners of her mouth and thin lips. What emotion is she most likely experiencing?

   a. Anger
   b. Contempt
   c. Disgust
   d. Fear
   e. Happiness
   f. Sadness
   g. Surprise
12. A patient whose father died of colon cancer develops blood in her stool. As you discuss the possible causes and the plan to evaluate it, you note her medial (inner) eyebrows are angled up and her lower lip is pushed up slightly. What emotion is she most likely experiencing?

a. Anger  
b. Contempt  
c. Disgust  
d. Fear  
e. Happiness  
f. Sadness  
g. Surprise  

13. You are seeing another physician’s patient. He complains of a sore throat and cough and insists on a strong antibiotic. You evaluate him and decide it’s likely a viral respiratory infection. You explain that antibiotics will not help, but he doesn’t agree. On his face you notice the corner of his mouth is raised and tightened on one side. What emotion is he most likely experiencing?

a. Anger  
b. Contempt  
c. Disgust  
d. Fear  
e. Happiness  
f. Sadness  
g. Surprise  

The following items were only included in the post-workshop evaluation:
14. The skills I learned in this workshop will help me identify emotions in my patients. (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree)

15. The skills I learned in this workshop will help me manage difficult patient encounters. (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree)

16. Have you had any prior training in interpreting facial expressions (formal or informal)?

The authors developed the workshop in May 2011 to teach physicians and physicians-in-training to interpret facial expressions and to use that skill in the context of patient care. The post-workshop evaluation also included questions on participants’ gender, age, current role (i.e., faculty, resident, medical student), and years in practice, which are not shown here.