



*Review Justyna Ziandarska*  
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Prodziekan  
Wydziału Lekarskiego  
ds. Nauki  
*Małgorzata Pawłowska*  
prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Pawłowska

**UNIWERSYTET MEDYCZNY**  
IM. PIASTÓW ŚLĄSKICH WE WROCŁAWIU

Wydział Lekarski  
Katedra i Klinika Dermatologii, Wenerologii i Alergologii  
Kierownik : prof. dr hab. n. med. dr h.c. Jacek Szepietowski  
ul. Chałubińskiego 1, 50-368 Wrocław  
Tel. +4871/327-09-41 Fax. +4871/327-09-42  
e-mail: [dermwen@umed.wroc.pl](mailto:dermwen@umed.wroc.pl) <http://www.derm.umed.wroc.pl>

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**Review of Justyna Ziandarska's doctoral thesis  
entitled „Investigation of the impact of skin lesions on perception of beauty  
and assignment of personality traits”**

**Introduction:**

The skin plays a fundamental part in the perception of individual. It has also a crucial role in our everyday social interactions. Therefore, it is easy to understand why patients with skin lesions, especially located on visible skin areas are strongly impaired by their disease and suffer a lot from stigmatisation. Among all exposed skin areas face constitutes the most important part of the skin. Therefore, the topic of Justyna Ziandarska's doctoral thesis on the impact of skin lesions on perception of beauty and assignment of personality traits is actual and of great importance both from scientific point of view and, even especially, from the practical one.

**Doctoral dissertation:**

The thesis presented for the review is a monograph structured typically for doctoral dissertations. It has 242 pages and it consists of introduction, aims and hypotheses, material and

methods, results, discussion, conclusions and bibliography. Polish and English summary is put at the end of thesis. At the beginning of the text one may find the list of used abbreviations, which enable readers to easily go through the whole text. I would like to underline that the thesis contains a huge supplementary material including approval of the local Ethics Committee and tables with all statistical analysis of obtained results. Justyna Ziandarska used 143 references for her dissertation, the majority of them are actual and recently published articles. Introduction is very interesting, well prepared. It has numerous chapters. Especially text on facial attractiveness and the impact of attractiveness on personality traits concentrated my attention. I am impressed with the analysis of the parts of face firstly observed during face recognition and the description of facial skin changes on ratings of attractiveness. I consider the whole Introduction as a very good basis for own research project of Justyna Ziandarska. She aimed to identify gaze patterns across the general adults looking at pictures of female faces without skin lesions. Moreover, she wanted to determine how presented unfamiliar female faces with and without skin lesions are judged in terms of their attractiveness and personality traits. Detailed research objectives were as follows: 1. Analysis of the eye movements during the observation of healthy female faces; 2. Analysis of the eye gaze patterns during the observation of faces with hemangiomas in different locations; 3. Investigation of the impact of locations of facial hemangiomas on attractiveness assessment and personality traits; 4. Assessment of number of fixations made by study participants during observations and 5. Analysis of the impact of observer's age, sex and education level on differences in eye gaze patterns during observations of both healthy faces and faces with hemangiomas. The study population consists of 98 individuals (70 females and 28 males) aged 18-79 years with the mean age of almost 50 years. Especially designed set of female face photographs, including healthy faces and faces with hemangiomas in eight different locations. Photographs were presented in random order. Gazepoint GP3 HD Eye Tracker was used to record various aspects of eye movements of the

study participants. They also filled the study questionnaire for the demographic and clinical data. Additionally, they were asked to assess their perception of each subject presented on photographs based on five personality traits, such as intelligence, self-confidence, trustworthiness, kindness and dominance. Obtained results were statistically analysed with adequately selected tests. I found the description of study participants and employed research methods described in details which may allow the repetition of the experiment. I would like to underline that the Ph.D. candidate used new technology for her study and worked on a methodologically difficult topic. All results were clearly described and nicely presented in numerous tables and on figures. I am personally impressed with so many analyses. Justyna Ziandarska clearly documented that when looking at the healthy female face perceivers focus a significant amount of visual attention on the central facial triangle, including eyes, nose and mouth. Viewing faces with hemangiomas, it appeared clear that hemangioma was observed as the first area and the fixation duration was the longest one. Hemangiomas on the right lower eyelid and on the forehead resulted in longer observation of the area. Female faces with hemangiomas were considered less attractive, intelligent, self-confident, trustworthy, kind and dominant than female faces without any skin lesions. It seems that lesions located within central facial triangle and in the middle of the forehead have more negative impact on the perception of attractiveness than skin lesions located peripherally on the face. Moreover, Justyna Ziandarska showed no difference in number of fixations between females and males during the healthy skin female face observation. Interestingly, females in comparison to males paid more visual attention to perioral area in healthy skin faces and with hemangioma on the left side of the lower nose. Eye movements significantly differ during free observation period and observation period with the attractiveness assessment. Hemangiomas within central triangle of the face concentrated higher visual attention during the assessment task. The strength of the thesis is a Discussion chapter. I enjoyed reading it. I like critical approach of the Ph.D. candidate



to obtained own results. I found discussion as mature and complete one. It is worth mentioning that Justyna Ziandarska is aware of study limitations, which were put at the end of discussion. Conclusions were grouped in six statements. They have the descriptive form and they are all directly linked to the own results.

**Final conclusion:**

I consider the doctoral thesis of Justyna Ziandarska as modern, important clinical research. The topic is of practical importance, the applied methodology is adequate for this type of studies. The thesis contains new data which extends current knowledge in the field. I highly encourage Ph.D. candidate to publish her observation in one of international journals ASAP. It is of importance do share own results with international community. The reviewed doctoral thesis complies with the conditions set out in the act on scientific degrees and scientific title, as well as on scientific degrees and scientific title in the field of art of the Polish Ministry of Education and Science. Therefore, expressing my positive opinion on the discussed thesis I fully support Justyna Ziandarska for her Ph.D. degree. Novelty of obtained results stimulated me to apply for the distinction of this doctoral dissertation.

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KATEDRA I KLINIKA  
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