Avoid Use of Invalid Cartoon Knockoff of Lip Philtrum Guide

Published by:

The Ranks are INCORRECT.

Use of this Lip Philtrum Guide will result in incorrect FASD diagnoses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual Philtrum Ranks Depicted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual Lip Ranks Depicted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Philtrum Errors Depicted in this Invalid Cartoon Knockoff:
- The Rank 4 philtrum depicted in this guide is actually a Rank 3 philtrum.
- The Rank 5 philtrum depicted in this guide is actually a Rank 4 philtrum.
- The guide does NOT present a valid Rank 5 philtrum. A Rank 5 philtrum by definition is completely smooth.

Lip Errors Depicted in this Invalid Cartoon Knockoff:
- The Rank 3 lip depicted in this guide is actually a Rank 2 lip.
- The Rank 4 lip depicted in this guide is actually a Rank 3 lip.
- The guide does NOT present a valid Rank 4 lip.
In 2005, American Family Physician published a cartoon knockoff of the University of Washington Lip-Philtrum Guide 1 (Fig 3a) alongside the actual University of Washington Lip-Philtrum Guides 1 and 2 (Figs 3b and 3c, respectively). Their figure legend states “Scores of 4 or 5, in addition to short palpebral fissure lengths, correspond to fetal alcohol syndrome”. This statement is only true (validated) for the University of Washington Lip-Philtrum Guides 1 and 2 (Figs 3b and 3c), NOT their cartoon knockoff (Fig 3a). The authors constructed an inaccurate cartoon knockoff. The lips and philtrums in their guide do NOT match the lips and philtrums in the University of Washington’s Lip-Philtrum Guides (as confirmed by image analysis software). The Journal and authors were requested to inform readers of this inaccuracy. The journal and authors declined the request.

**Figure 3.** Lip-Philtrum Guide. (A) The smoothness of the philtrum and the thinness of the upper lip are assessed individually on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = unaffected, 5 = most severe). The patient must have a relaxed facial expression, because a smile can alter lip thinness and philtrum smoothness. Scores of 4 and 5, in addition to short palpebral fissures, correspond to fetal alcohol syndrome. (B) Guide for white patients. (C) Guide for black patients.