Rank 4 and 5 Philtrums

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The facial phenotype of FAS includes a Rank 4 or 5 philtrum.

Too often, I observe clinician’s coding a Rank 3 philtrum as a Rank 4 philtrum.

The philtrum is the vertical groove between the nose and upper lip.

In the pages below, I have provided detailed descriptions and photographs of Rank 4 and 5 philtrums.

These additional aids should help you:
• differentiate a Rank 4 from a Rank 5,
• differentiate a Rank 3 from a Rank 4.
Definitions and Pictorial Examples of Rank 5 and Rank 4 Philtrums

Definition of a Rank 5 Philtrum:
• **Absolutely smooth.** No hint of a philtrum depression, no matter what angle you view it at.

Definition of a Rank 4 Philtrum:
• **Just the bare semblance of a depression exists.** You typically have to view the philtrum from an angle to detect it. A Rank 4 philtrum is so close to being smooth, it is often difficult to detect in a frontal photograph.
Angle and Frontal Views of a Child with a Rank 4 Philtrum

Definition of a Rank 4 Philtrum:
Just the bare semblance of a depression exists.

• You typically have to view the philtrum from an angle to detect it.

• A Rank 4 philtrum is so close to being smooth, it is often difficult to detect in a frontal photograph.
Angle and Frontal views of Rank 5 and Rank 4 Philtrums

Rank 5

Rank 4

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Further examples of angle and frontal views of Rank 4 Philtrums

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