

# Adherence to Standardized Pre- and Postoperative Photodocumentation in Reconstructive Breast Surgery: A Comprehensive Analysis of an International Congress

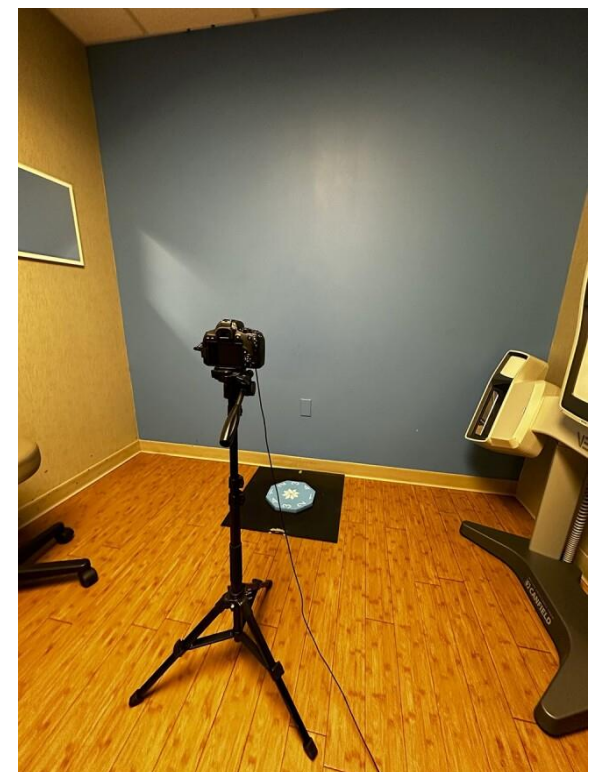
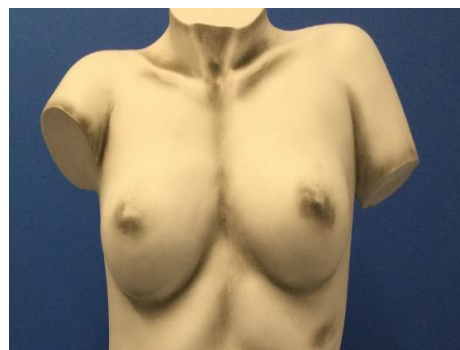
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## Introduction and Background

Photodocumentation in plastic surgery is crucial for maintaining patients' medical records. It serves not only for documentation but also carries significant legal implications. In breast surgery, meticulous documentation is indispensable. Professional societies and international plastic surgery organizations provide guidelines that standardize aspects of these images, including the number of images, framing, background, focus, perspective, presence of jewelry and clothing, as well as color and lighting. This study aims to assess adherence to these standards, a topic scarcely investigated in oral presentations at past congresses.

## Methods

We investigated oral presentations from an international congress held in 2024 in Europe, focused on cosmetic and reconstructive breast surgery, featuring more than 50 international speakers.



## Standard Photodocumentation

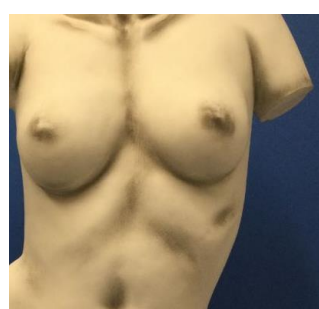
Correct background, framing, focus, illumination.

## Conclusion

Photodocumentation in plastic surgery, particularly in breast surgery, is an essential tool in clinical practice, and its importance cannot be overstated. These photos are not only an integral part of the patient's medical record but also serve to disseminate treatment results and knowledge in congresses and webinars to the scientific community. Photographic standardization, according to established criteria, must be demanded and maintained in publications and oral presentations. Our study of an international congress in 2024 revealed alarmingly low adherence to these standards in cosmetic and reconstructive breast surgery. In the future, organizers of "high-quality" congresses should emphasize a good level of standardization and draw more attention to this issue among participants. Ensuring consistent adherence to these standards will not only improve patient care but also elevate the quality of scientific discourse and professional development within the field of plastic surgery.

## Results

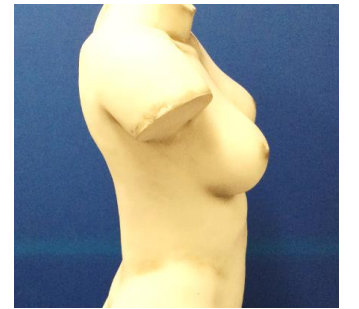
With very few exceptions, the standards were either not followed or inadequately followed. Adherence rates for different parameters were below 50%, and none of the presentations fully complied with the standards.



Incorrect Positioning



„Non solid“ Background



Overexposure (Lighting)

Common "Errors" / Misrepresentations / Examples of Evident Neglect of Standards (Dummies)