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Man's face and mimic language

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I Terms for indicating position and direction

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I Terms for indicating position and direction

To avoid misunderstandings at anatomical descriptions, special terms or designations have been created for indicating position and direction. Some of these are used in the following descriptions and discussions; they are therefore defined here.

The plane that divides face and head into a right half and a left half is called the median plane, as in the medical language (Fig. 2a). Each point that lies closer to this plane than any other point is said to be medially situated in relation to the latter point, which is laterally situated in relation to the former point. The inner corner of the eye, situated next to the nasal bridge, obviously lies closer to the median plane than does the outer corner of the eye, situated next to the temple. Thus the inner corner of the eye is the medial and the outer corner the lateral.

When indicating directions in the face, we consider the person to be standing upright (Fig. 2b & c; cf. also the direction indications on an ordinary compass). The main directions are therefore upwards, downwards, medially, and laterally to the right in the right half of the face, and laterally to the left in the left half of the face. Oblique directions in the right half of the face are medially-upwards, medially-downwards, laterally-upwards to the right, and laterally-downwards to the right; in the left half of the face, medially-upwards, medially-downwards, laterally-upwards to the left, and laterally-downwards to the left.

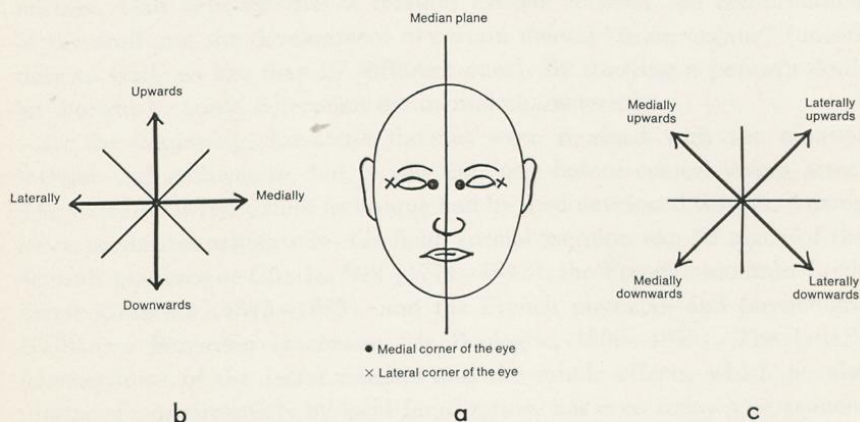


Fig. 2. Terms for indicating position and direction in the frontal picture of the face.