Abstract

Sexual dimorphism is one of the basic features of the human facial variability. It is especially important when recognizing an individual, also in plastic and reconstructive surgery. It is one of the most significant paleodemographic aspects and it affects for example mate choice too. Sexual dimorphism arises very early during the ontogeny; it is already present in prenatal development. After birth it increases and develops due to contribution of various factors. Dimorphism is established mostly over the periods of childhood and adolescence, but it is possible to observe at least minor changes in the course of the whole life of an individual. Although different parts and structures of the craniofacial complex interact during their growth, they are to some degree independent from each other. That is why the sexual dimorphism can develop in them with different timing. This thesis summarizes the basic aspects of sexual dimorphism of human face during ontogeny together with the factors which are believed to cause this dimorphism.