

# FACE X prosthetic boosts confidence, competence, and masculinity: a case study

Sam R. Rottleton, Jerry L. Fendra, Nathan A. Getter

## Introduction

Self-confidence has long been associated with a happier and healthier lifestyle.<sup>1</sup> Although cultural barriers have made certain groups less able to feel confident, the same people have been shown to benefit from making changes to themselves.<sup>2</sup> Because cultural shifts happen so slowly, our team has been researching methods of permanent self-alteration that could lead to higher confidence.

Recent surveys in the U.S. state that many men are displeased with their current facial shape. Most expressed some sign of wanting their face to be slimmer and more angular (i.e. wanting more prominent cheekbones or jawlines).<sup>3</sup>

After our brilliant team created the first prototype of the pending-on-becoming-patent-pending FACE X technology, we showed it to an investor. Apparently, he thought that this product could be marketed to a certain group. He told us about his nephew—“she is now a he”—and we were excited to exploit this new vein.

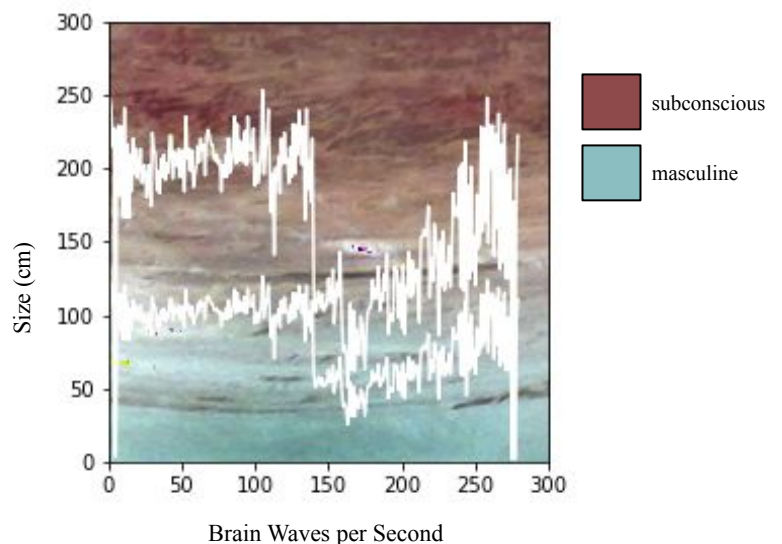
## Methods

To be sure of the FACE X’s market, we randomly selected 50 individuals of this population that we gave a free installation of the FACE X. With the prosthetics pierced into their skin, one of our researchers spent a week with each person to see how the world would interact with the new technology. Because these case studies were extremely labor intensive for us, we were not able to provide a control by spending time with them before their FACE X’s were installed. To make up for this, we looked at national surveys and other case studies to find that their lives were likely difficult and stressful, which will serve as our control.<sup>4</sup>

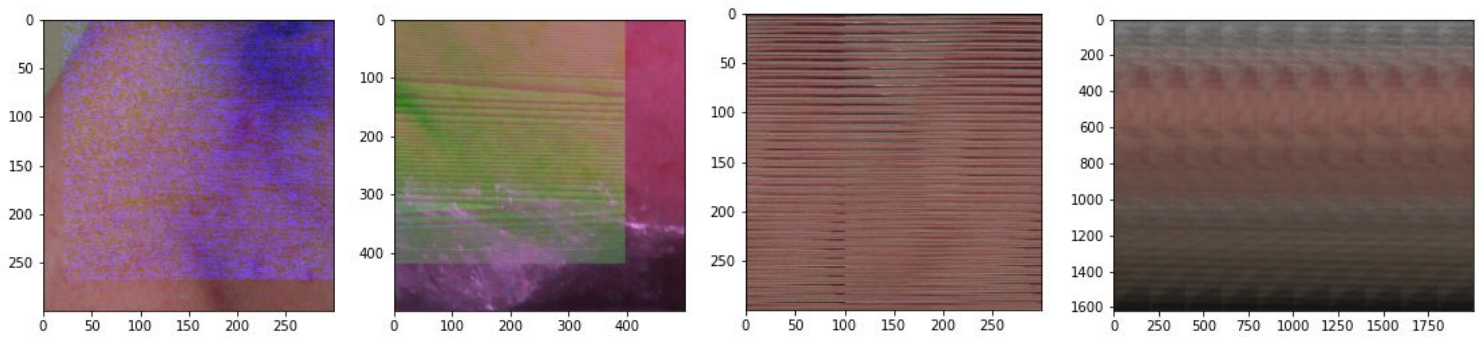
## Results

FACE X technology had incredible results for all 50 individuals. Compared to the control we had established, we found that the FACE X improved all of their abilities, masculinities, and confidences ( $p < 0.05$ ).

I was surprised to find that much of their days were extremely normal. Most went to work, spent time with friends and family, and engaged in hobbies. Compared to our control, our subjects were much more competent when wearing the FACE X. The FACE X’s clear plastic added a subtle element of handsomeness to these subjects, who previously had very little angles in their faces at all. The confidence that this handsomeness provided them propelled them into success in many facets of their lives, and it was inspiring to see that we were able to help their typically dismal existences.



**Figure 1. Conceptualized MRI results.** All 50 subjects’ brains could have been scanned before and after installation of the FACE X. The speed of their imagined brain waves were compared to the size of the signal that the brain was emitting. These sizes fall into two main categories: subconscious and masculine. Our landscape of these categories is based on Maguire (2002)’s precedent and is overlaid with the appearance of the participants when wearing the FACE X devices.



**Figure 2. Participants' thoughts about their FACE X's.** While the participants were sleeping, we were able to track their movements to indicate how they were conceptualizing the FACE X's in their minds. Instead of asking them directly, which could have been affected by certain biases they developed towards our researchers, we used an EMF meter to track their empirical astral embodiments and how they shifted in space. Using this method, we also eliminated the possibility of the participants (purposefully or subconsciously) performing for us to perceive them in a certain light (i.e. a subject telling the researcher that they enjoyed the product to please the researcher). We managed to keep them unaware that we were collecting this data; many of them did not know we were able to access their bedrooms. By collecting EMF signals that the FACE X transmitted based on its wearer, we created images that represent their thoughts as they slept. To make sure that we only analyzed the thoughts that were relevant to the FACE X, we cropped all of the images. The colors are based on their attitudes toward the product, where pink, green, blue, and flesh tones signify respect, love, satisfaction, and truth, respectively. The data was collected for 10 consecutive minutes, once for every time the subject would fall asleep.

Some showed their new confidence in a very interesting way. A few times, I witnessed the subjects encountering adversity: for example, interpersonal disrespect. In one particular instance, when a subject was cat-called, they responded with an effortless “fuck you” and didn’t even look at me to give them reassurance or a sense of safety. It seems that most of them, because of their FACE X’s, were able to feel very confident in themselves and didn’t want or expect me to help them. This was fortunate; we only wanted to manipulate the presence of a FACE X, so I would not have been able to step in and save them.

Because I had not yet installed my own FACE X during these case studies, I noticed myself questioning my own masculinity and capabilities. Nearly daily, as I watched these individuals work out, receive compliments, or make beautiful things, I would wonder why they were so capable, sometimes even thinking that they were more capable than me. Their FACE X’s made the people around them feel inferior, and once the FACE X is released for purchase, this effect could hopefully lead to them purchasing the product as well.

Most subjects, aligning with the current literature, were overly-sensitive, which often blocked us from collecting valuable data. All but three refused to let me accompany them into their home bathrooms so that I would be able to see how the FACE X technology interacted with their already precarious situations. Without a FACE X, though, this sensitivity would not lead to aggression.

Because of their new prosthetics, five subjects found the confidence and masculinity within themselves to yell at me or even threaten me. For those who let me in, I was disappointed to find that they were just brushing their teeth or washing their hands. I observed that both of these functions were improved by the FACE X, as these tasks were performed with confidence that was previously unavailable because of their naturally-insufficient bone formations.

In a similar manner, I was not able to collect a lot of data on their genitalia; however, I am fairly certain that lots of them, undoubtedly due to the FACE X’s help, were engaging in sexual intercourse. I was not able to see this directly, though I did observe that while they wore the FACE X, their partners would show them lots of affection and praise, which I was impressed by. As expected, a few had partners who were still uncomfortable with being seen with them, but most were actually willing to appear as a couple in public. Strangely, I even noticed I was attracted to a few of the subjects, and I was blown away that the FACE X made people palatable that I would usually be repulsed by. A few times, I began to worry that I would appear as a subject’s partner when we were in public. As a result, I kept myself very stoic to avoid charming them.

I’m proud to say that 100% of the subjects still have their FACE X’s installed to this day. FACE X is a valuable resource to this population and will definitely benefit men as well. In our efforts to make people more confident and happy, we hope to show that a simple prosthetic can have immense effects.

## References

1. Cheng, H., & Furnham, A. (2002). Personality, peer relations, and self-confidence as predictors of happiness and loneliness. *Journal of adolescence*, 25(3), 327-340.
2. Lopez, F. G., & Gormley, B. (2002). Stability and change in adult attachment style over the first-year college transition: Relations to self-confidence, coping, and distress patterns. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 49(3), 355.
3. Drummond, M. J. (2002). Men, body image, and eating disorders. *International Journal of Men's Health*, 1(1), 79-93.
4. Testa, R. J., Michaels, M. S., Bliss, W., Rogers, M. L., Balsam, K. F., & Joiner, T. (2017). Suicidal ideation in transgender people: gender minority stress and interpersonal theory factors. *Journal of abnormal psychology*, 126(1), 125.