Subtle Differences Among Single Horizontal Action Units in the Lower Face

As you study the signs that distinguish among these AUs, examine the images for each AU in the pair that is compared and the video relevant to each comparison.

Table 5-1: Subtle Differences in Single Horizontal Lower Face Actions

| AUs | Subtle Differences | |
|--------------|--|---|
| 10 vs. 14 | the action is up, the whole infraorbital triangle raised upwards; the infraorbital furrow may appear, or deepen if already evident in neutral nasolabial furrow takes on characteristic shape lip corners may appear down due to center of upper lip being raised pouching of upper medial corner of infraorbital triangle | the action is horizontal, the corners of the lips pulled inwards and/or narrowed lower portion of nasolabial furrow may deepen lip corners pulled inwards and tightened, may appear angled up, down or straight absent |
| 14 vs. 15 | lip corners pulled in, may be angled up, down or straight lip corners tightened mouth may appear elongated and the movement is horizontal wrinkle, bulge at lip corners may produce dimple-like wrinkle beyond lip corners | lip corners pulled down lips pulled, stretched downwards mouth elongated downwards pouching, bagging or wrinkling may appear below lip corners |

| 14 vs. 20 | Lateral pull in both. In 20C, 20D, or 20E more lateral stretch than in 14. Tightening of lip corners plus inward pull in 14, not in 20. The wrinkle pattern is different. In 14 there is a bulge and sometimes a dimple-like wrinkle just beyond the lip corner. In 20 the skin of the cheek is stretched back and there may be a wrinkle beyond the lip corners but no tightened bulge. | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| | Typically 20 pulls horizontally, while 15 pulls down. Confusion can arise because 20 sometimes causes a downward cast to the lip corners in addition to the main horizontal pull. The differences between 15 and the downward 20 are: 15 20 | | |
| | 15 | 20 | |
| 15 vs. 20 | lip corners elongated and pulled down, medial portion of lower lip not stretched as much as in 20 | entire lip elongated, mostly horizontal; medial portions of both upper and lower lips are stretched | |
| | wrinkling, pouching, or bagging, if evident, is below lip corners | skin beyond lip corner pulled laterally, flattening of cheek skin; if there is wrinkling or bulging, it is located beyond the lip corners rather than below the lip corners | |
| | chin area may appear full especially below mid- dle to lateral portion of lips, as skin puffs or bulges out | skin covering chin is stretched tight and flattened | |